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LITT 2014

Amigos de Skype

A language and culture exchange

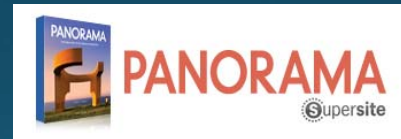
What we already do...

Flipped classroom

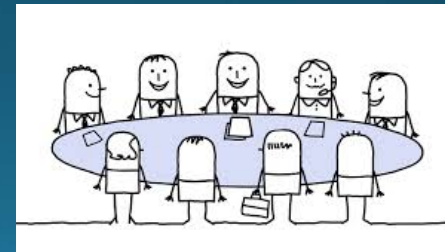
- Content-rich Moodle site



- Text Supersite (VHL)



- Conversation tables, films, Q&A's



Why do more?

- Student motivation
- Building ...
 - Communication
 - Cultures
 - Connections
 - Comparisons
 - **Communities**



En el verano...



- Information gathering
- Networking: Emailing, FB messaging, Skype message boards
- Collaborating
- Preparing Moodle
- Consulting students

A language and culture exchange

Lycoming College
Spanish 102 students



Colegio LaSalle Manresa
1st & 2nd year Bac students



Procedures...

- Volunteer students register for Skype account
- Each introduces himself/herself in a written text
- Teachers match students
- Time: about 15 minutes English, 15 minutes Spanish.
- 6-8 chats per semester
- Thematic chats (families, school life, pastimes, food, holidays, health, the environment, cities...)
- After-activity portfolio



Taxonomy of a Skype Conversation (or, something to aim for...)

Free Flowing Conversation	Transitions between listening & speaking occur naturally & smoothly. A thread/connection between conversation partners can be observed. Conversation demonstrates a depth of understanding and knowledge being shared. There is an exchange of open ended questions/answers. Previously mentioned comments during the conversation are referred to in flowing conversation. Collaborative knowledge brings new perspectives to the conversation. Humor can be used and understood.
↑	
Content Conversation	Participants show content knowledge through making connections to and sharing personal experiences or prior research. Participants use vocabulary demonstrating their content knowledge. They elaborate on points being made, offering advice, further resources or anecdotes.
↑	
Follow Along Conversation	Participants are able to follow along the conversation easily. They actively listen and contribute to a variety of conversation turns/ tangents. Participants are able to answer unanticipated questions and respond in a natural manner.
↑	
Body Language Conversation	Body language of speaker and listener is attentive, maintains composure, shows confidence and conveys politeness, friendliness and interest. Participants maintain eye contact. Nonverbal clues are given to show understanding, clarification, questioning, agreement or disagreement. Few sentences are exchanged.
↑	
Ping Pong conversation	Questions and answers are closed ended and alternating in a rehearsed manner, memorized parts or reading off note cards. The conversation feels stiff. Answers are short sentences or one word only. There are often pauses in the conversation, periods of silence. Participants feel insecure how to proceed.

Assessment

- Students upload a screenshot and summary to Moodle (forum activity)
- Students can see and respond to each other's uploads
- Evaluation of chat emailed to professor
- End-of-semester portfolio



What's working?

Successes

- Enthusiastic students
- Enthusiastic partner teacher
- Cultural learning
- Technology learning

Challenges

- Finding partners
- Format of videochat
- Time zones
- Academic calendars

Thin the walls of your classroom



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