Building intercultural competence through proficiency-based projects

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Project-based assessments

To reflect the new developments in second language acquisition, assessments in my lower-division language courses are comprised of intercultural competence, proficiency-based projects. Project-based assessments facilitate active learning, critical thinking, problem solving, effective communication, and they foster learner responsibility. I typically introduce each project two weeks before it is due or presented. For Spanish 101 this fall 2022 semester, I assigned five projects, which included the final project for the course. Here is a description of the one of the projects:

The Digital Project

I introduced the Digital Project to my students with a pre-activity, then there was a *Fase uno* 'Phase one', and *Fase dos* 'Phase two' was the presentation. The students worked both in class and weekly with their Peer Leaders on this project.

The Pre-Activity

To introduce the topic, I began with the pre-activity called ¿*Cómo es tener un compañero de cuarto*? 'What is it like having a roommate?' It included actual Spanish-language images, memes, and websites with thoughtful questions for them to consider and answer in Spanish (fig. 1). This activity laid the groundwork for students to delve into the project's topic, to use the grammar and vocabulary in a real-life context, and for a creative application of the content.

PROFICIENCY-BASED PROJECTS

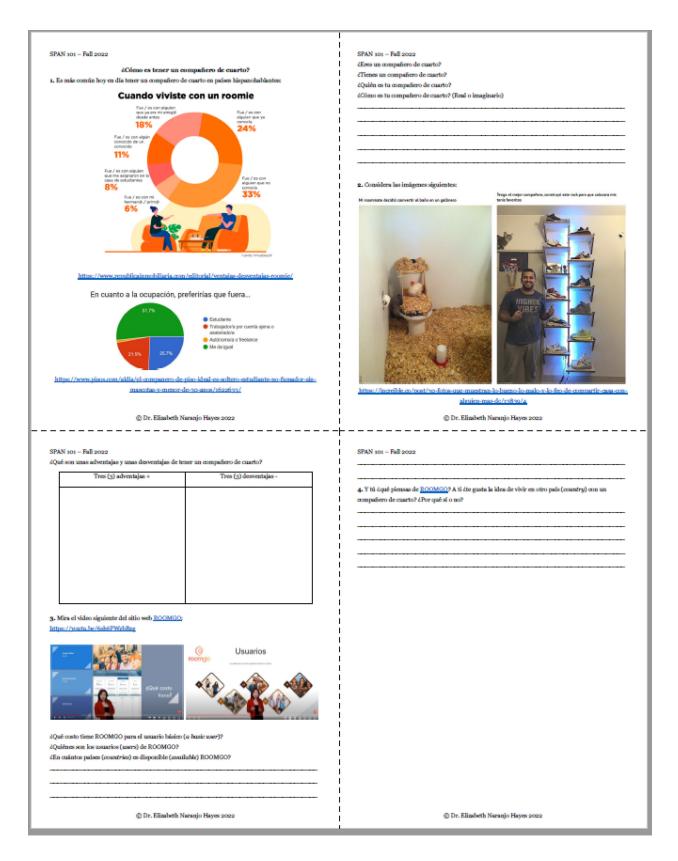


Figure 1. The Pre-Activity for the digital presentation

Fase uno 'Phase one'

The next part of the digital presentation was setting up the scenario for students: you work for <u>ROOMGO</u>, an actual Mexican roommate finding service, and you have access to all lodging for your clients. Using the prompts provided (fig. 2), prepare the profile of the client for whom you will be finding the perfect lodging and roommate. This allowed for individual student creativity, and they could create a client, use a person they know, or choose a celebrity as the client.

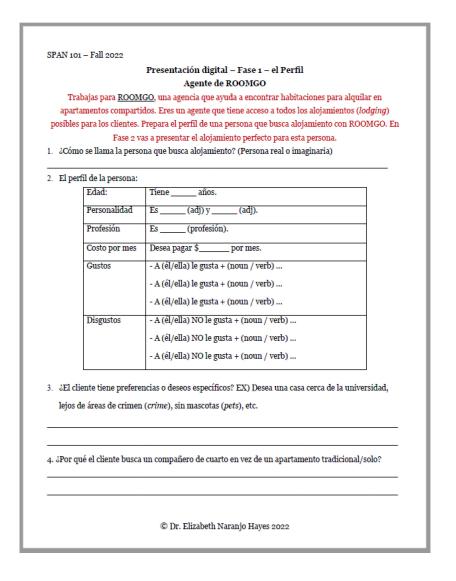


Figure 2. Fase uno 'Phase one' of the digital presentation

Fase dos 'Phase two'

The final part of the digital presentation was having the students "find" the perfect lodging and roommates to fit the client, following the prompts (fig.3). Students were encouraged to use online images in their presentations to create any lodging and roommate scenario they deemed was the most appropriate for their client, and to present it as if to their client.

SPAN 101 - Fall 2022		SPAN 101 - Fall 2022	
Presentación digital –Fase 2			
Agente de ROOMGO		7. ¿Cómo son los compañeros de cuarto? Género (gender), edad, personalidad, profesión, gustos	
Eres agente de <u>ROOMGO</u> y tu cliente busca alquilar un alojamiento (<i>lodging</i>) compartido. Tienes		1. 2.	
acceso a todos los alojamientos posibles para tu cliente, y usando su perfil (fase 1), vas a preparar una			
presentación con fotos y audio del alojamiento perfecto. En la presentación digital, explica cómo el			
	alojamiento es PERFECTO para el cliente.		
1. ¿Dónde está el alojamiento:	? Está en		
	(ciudad/city)		
2. Describe la ciudad con dos	adjetivos: Es		
		Busca fotos por Internet (Google Images, Pintrest, etc) para describir la ciudad, el alojamiento, tus	
		razones, los compañeros de cuarto, itodo!	
	y no otra (another one)? Dos razones:		
A (el/ella) le gustaOR n	no le gusta / Tiene años / Es (profesión) / Es (adj)	La presentación digital debe incluir:	
		• Un título original	
		 Una grabación de tu voz (audio recording) de mínimo 1 minuto y medio, usando oraciones 	
		completas (complete sentences)	
4. ¿Es casa, apartamento, condominio, mansión? ¿Por qué? Dos razones:		 Usa mínimo 10 fotos para ilustrar tu presentación, coordinadas con la grabación. 	
A (él/ella) le gustaOR no le gusta / Tieneaños / Es (profesión) / Es (adj)		 Toda la información escrita en la presentación para el cliente 	
r (u) chu) to gao ann ort in h		 La razón por la ciudad, el alojamiento, hay/no hay, el costo y los compañeros de cuarto 	
		Producción	
		 Utiliza Adobe Spark Google Slides, Canva o otra manera de crear un slideshow 	
5. ¿Qué hay específico o intere	esante en este alojamiento para el cliente? Indica "hay" o "no hay":	Selecciona la función Slideshow (video)	
Hay	No hay	Sube tu presentación en el Google Drive de la clase	
1.	1.	babe ta presentación en el obogie prive de la clase	
		Los perfiles (Fase 1) y las Presentaciones digitales (Fase 2) se van a presentar en clase miércoles 12	
2.	2.	octubre 2022. La versión final debe subirse a Blackboard antes de 11:50PM el mismo día.	
		LA CLASE VOTA:	
		+5% para la presentación más creativa	
6. ¿Cuánto cuesta por mes? Cuesta		+5% para la presentación con <mark>el alojamiento más adecuado para el cliente</mark> ©	
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© Dr. Elizabeth Naranjo Hayes 2022		© Dr. Elizabeth Naranjo Hayes 2022	

Figure 3. Fase dos 'Phase two' of the digital presentation

Results

As an added incentive, students voted on the most creative presentation, and the best fit between the client and the lodging/roommates, with the winners earning five points. They outdid themselves and had incredibly creative presentations. Winners were a client who lived on the moon with a robot roommate because he wanted to live far away from humans, and Latin music artist Bad Bunny as the client, and his lodging in San Diego since he attends San Diego State University, and his roommates are Mark Wahlberg and the actor who played the vampire on Twilight.