Objectives:

- Research past and current frameworks for assessing culture in foreign languages.
- Design innovative and alternative culture assessments for beginning language learners.
- Present to the Department of Foreign Languages during a professional development workshop and to state teachers at the state foreign language conference in November 2007.

Culture is...

“...that complex whole which includes knowledge, beliefs, art, morals, laws, customs, and any other capabilities and habits acquired by man as a member of society”. (Encyclopedia Britannica, 2007)

“The ways of the people”. (Lessard and Clouston, 1997)

“Knowing how, when, and why to say what to whom”. (ACTFL, 1999)

The Three Ps of Culture

Products

- Fast Food
  - Drive-thru, Value meal
  - We value convenience over nutritional value. We value quantity over quality.

- Big Mac

Practices

- Interpersonal - Two-way communication that allows for negotiation
- Interpretive - Understand and interpret written and spoken language
- Presentation - Present information to an audience

Perspectives

Resources

- Interpersonal
- Interpretive
- Presentation

Assessing Culture

Culture Portfolios: Portfolios dedicated to the examination of a cultural stereotype
Culture Exchanges: Exchange a box of cultural products with a sister-site that includes explanations of the products (i.e. a letter on a letterman’s jacket)
Cross-cultural comparisons: Compare word associations, movie scenes or newspaper titles between the target culture and the first language culture
Interpret Art: Examine symbolism and historical context of works of art from target culture
Rubrics: Incorporate culture into grading rubrics (Ex. Proximity for a role play activity)

Teaching Culture

There are three performance areas in which it is necessary to teach culture:
- Interpersonal - Two-way communication that allows for negotiation of meaning
- Interpretive - Understand and interpret written and spoken language
- Presentation - Present information to an audience

You can incorporate the Three Ps of Culture into each of these performance areas. (Ipod Project)

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