



The Assessment of Culture Learning: Issues, Frameworks, and Techniques

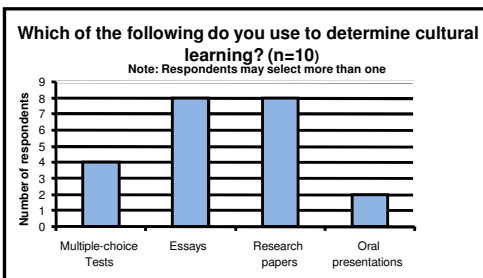
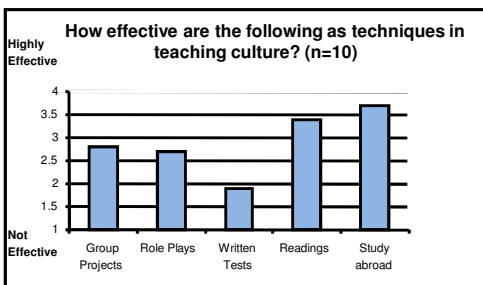
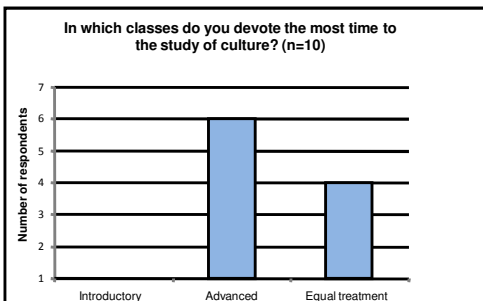
Anne Cummings-Hlas PhD. (hlasac@uwec.edu), Emily Adler (adlered@uwec.edu)

• Department of Foreign Languages • Hibbard 378 • University of Wisconsin- Eau Claire • Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54703 •

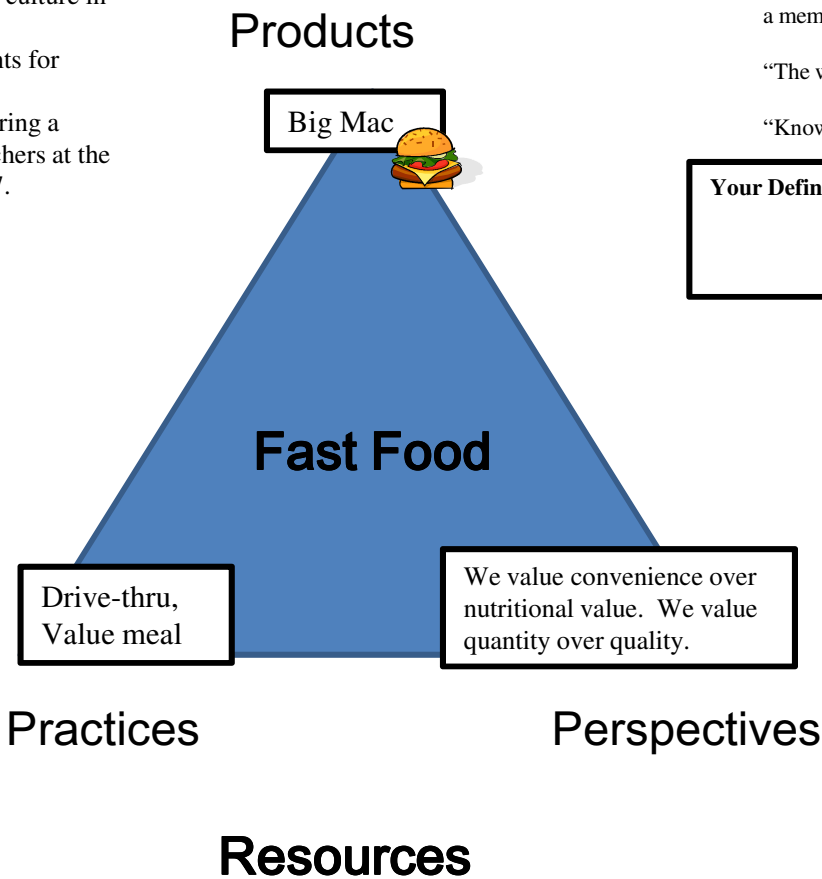
Objectives:

- 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.

Faculty Surveys



The Three Ps of Culture



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)

Your Definitions of Culture:

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)

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)

Acknowledgements:

Funds to support this project came from the University of Wisconsin- Eau Claire Summer Research Experiences for Undergraduates Program.

(2001). Giving a Virtual Voice to the Silent Language of Culture: The Cultura Project. *Language Learning & Technology*, Vol. 5 (1), 55-102.

Culture. (2007). In Encyclopedia Britannica. Retrieved June 6, 2007 from Encyclopedia Britannica online: http://search.eb.com/article_9109857

Lessard-Clouston, M. (1997, May). Towards an Understanding of Culture in L2/FL Education. *Internet TESL Journal*, 3, Retrieved June 6, 2007, from <http://iteslj.org/articles/lessard-clouston-culture.html>

Standards for Foreign Language Learning in the 21st Century. 1999 American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, Yonkers, NY:ACTFL, 1999. Wisconsin's Model Academic Standards for Foreign Languages