



Project: *Why learn Spanish???*
Spanish I—Honors—
Sra. Kennally

Task: In your first quarterly project for the class you will explore answers to the question “*Why learn Spanish?*” There will be four different groups comprised of 4-5 students. Please see the group descriptions below and think about which one you would like to belong to. I will do my best to accommodate all of you. You will first do your research individually. When you come back to class, you will be grouped according to your group #. In this group, you will discuss your findings and condense the information you consider to be the most relevant. Please, listen to what everyone has to offer. You may use a poster or a power point presentation (50 pts). You must pay attention and take notes as you will need to use it for a reflective essay (50 pts). Please see reverse side of this page for an explanation on reflective essays. Do not forget to cite your sources! You may use your text (pages xxxiv-xxxv) as one of your sources.

There will be four groups:

Grupo #1---Statistics--Show us some numbers! ex: Where does Spanish rank in terms of the number of native speakers? How many countries speak Spanish? What states in the U.S has the highest/lowest population of Spanish speakers? What else can you show with numbers?

Grupo # 2---Economics--Show us the \$!!! ---What is the importance of the Hispanic market? How do they contribute to the U.S economy? What does it mean for employers? How is being bilingual beneficial to job seekers? etc.

Grupo # 3--- Cultural-- Hmmm, let's see...Did you know that the novel "Don Quijote de la Mancha" (written by Cervantes) is the second most translated book after the Bible? Wow! *Impresionante!* Hence, some questions to explore here are for example: What are some important contributions that Hispanics have made? Can you cite some examples of some cultural influences? Can you come up with some other questions (and the answers) related to the cultural aspect?

Grupo #4 ---Academic-- What's in it for you? How can studying a foreign language help you academically? What does research show? Enlighten us! Perhaps you would like to interview a Thornton Academy student that has taken or is currently taking upper level classes in a foreign language. Ask them what have they gained after taking 4 or 5 years of a FL?

Everyone: Personal Reflection (one page, typed, double spaced)--After listening to everyone's presentation write a reflective essay on how you think you will personally benefit from studying Spanish. What did you realize after completing your research and hearing your peers? How has this project changed the way you think? What ideas/facts were validated for you?

Due dates: End of first quarter---Specific dates TBA

- *1st meeting with group:* share your findings. Decide what you will include in your project. Discuss if you need to find more information. *Due date:* _____
- *Last meeting with group:* Finalize your project; paste information in poster or bring laptop to class to work on power point. *Due date:* _____
- *Class presentation due date:*
- *Reflective essay due date:*



1. What Is a Reflective Essay Paper?

A reflective essay is a piece of writing that basically involves your views and feelings about a particular subject. The goal of a reflective essay is to not only discuss what you learned, but to convey the personal experiences and findings that resulted.



2. Significance

Writing a reflective essay is your chance to reveal and talk about your personal insight about a topic. Reflective essays are used as a self-assessment measure of sorts; they allow you to address your experiences and what **you've gained**. You may be asked to write a reflective essay after taking a course, completing a project or partaking in some type of experience. The reflective essay consists of your individual views on the matter **and an explanation of your stance**. The goal of this essay is to successfully relay your own beliefs, attitudes and observations. In some reflective essays, you'll be required to support your conclusions by citing materials such as books, journals, articles and other resources.

3. Function

A reflective essay concentrates on your ideas and reflections about a topic; however you want to show your readers **why the points you are making are valid**. To do so, the information that led to your conclusions should be included in the paper. Having references adds to your credibility and will illustrate to your audience that your findings result from **both facts and personal experience**. A good reflective essay includes an insightful interpretation of the matter at hand. The feelings and experiences that you write about in the essay should be based on your own perception and showcase to the readers why your revelation is significant on a larger scale. The essay should communicate both the importance of the topic as well your consideration of it. Before writing a reflective essay, it's a good idea to gather and make a list of all the relevant materials and sources that you plan to include in it. An outline will help to organize your thoughts and act as a blueprint for your paper.

4. Features

Although reflective essays may not have a definite structural design, there are certain formats and guidelines that you should stick to. Your opening paragraph, sometimes referred to as the thesis, should inform the reader about your topic and also engage him. After he finishes reading the introduction of your essay, he should be eager to read the rest. The body of your reflective essay should reveal your ideas and experiences with the subject that you are writing about. If you are writing about an event, describe its progression. Include different aspects of the experience and how it shaped your findings. In the conclusion of your reflective essay, reflect upon your topic for and discuss its impact on you as well as the probable impact that it may have for others.