

ACS Teaching with Technology Fellowship Proposal
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Developing Slide Presentations for Spanish Language Instruction

Final report

This project contains vocabulary slide presentations from *Puntos de Partida* 7th edition by McGraw Hill. It is intended to reinforce what non-native adult learners want and need in the process of second-language acquisition, as well as to promote classroom time spent on speaking and employing the language. These slide presentations are intended as supplemental material to be used by students and faculty.

While using technology in the classroom can be very rewarding and dynamic, it is also very time-consuming. Therefore, having ready-made and adaptable teaching tools for vocabulary and grammar is welcome. Also, to be an effective teacher, it's important to present information in a variety of ways to match students' different ways of learning.

Instructors comfortable with power point, may use the vocabulary slides in the classroom. This method facilitates guided pronunciation practice, word/picture association, and encourages dialogue amongst students and as a class.

Additionally, these slides provide a structure through which instructors may identify students' weaknesses. Often a student can't articulate what they don't understand; with the slides, students and/or instructor will better be able to identify problem areas.

If used in conjunction with the current Spanish curriculum, these slides will decrease the disparity between levels of Spanish within a particular class. Students enter at varying stages of the curriculum and bring differing levels of expertise to the classroom. These slides help provide a framework through which students can review and obtain additional essential information to help minimize that distribution.

The vocabulary slide presentations provide visual aids to introduce new words, tell stories and, generally, encourage production of target language. Students do not sit and watch; rather they answer questions, discuss topics and practice according to the prompts.

The idea is to create a central web page that contains these slide presentations. Students are able to access these presentations with the possibility of downloading and printing the slides for use as reference materials. Instructors also access this page and, according to personal teaching style and classroom requirements, use the slides in or outside of the classroom while adapting them to their own interests and pedagogy.

Assessment

In my teaching during this 2004-2005 academic year, I have piloted a number of slide presentations and have been pleased with their success. Likewise, I welcome feedback about the use and effectiveness of the slide presentations from faculty throughout the 2005-2006 academic year. In addition, the number of hits and downloads can be tracked to estimate the effectiveness and utility of these presentations.

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