**Title of Activity: International Pen Pal**

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| **Summary**: *Objective:*The objective of this activity is to facilitate cross-cultural communication between students - particularly between those who do not have the ability to go on an international educational exchange program – through by messaging systems of video calls. *Goal:*The goal of this activity is to provide students with an opportunity to practice a second language with a native speaker and to provide students with greater exposure to different people around the world. At the end of this activity, students will have a better understand of their partner student’s culture and language and/or dialect.  |
| **Key words**: * Interculturality
* Diversity
* Dialect
* Second language
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| **Directions**: * The instructor will begin by pairing students together: one from their own classroom and one from a different part of the world. Pairing will be done on the basis that both students must be native speakers of the second language the other is learning.
* The instructor will direct students to communicate with their partner student, either over messaging services (WhatsApp etc.) or video call (Skype, Google Hangouts, Zoom, etc.), for about 30 minutes each week over the period of a month in the second language that they are learning. For example, if a student is a native English speaker and is learning French, they will communicate to their French speaking partner in French whereas their partner who is learning English will respond in English.
* The instructor will give prompts to initiate conversation such as worksheets or general prompts on what they need to learn about their partners over the duration of this activity. For example, one week the student may learn about holidays that the other student celebrates in their culture or differences in food, curriculum, societal norms, etc.
* At the end of the activity, students should submit a final journal/reflection piece about their experience interacting with someone from another culture and what they were able to learn about language and cultural differences.
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| **Stage of the problem-solving process**:*Highlight the appropriate stage(s) of the problem-solving process that this activity addresses.*1. Define and articulate the problem
2. Analyze the problem
3. Develop alternative ideas
4. Choose a resolution through negotiation
5. Implement and test the resolution
6. Evaluate progress of the resolution
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| **Global competencies**:*Highlight the global competencies addressed by this activity.** Collaboration
* Innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship
* Learning to learn/self-awareness and self-direction
* Communication
* Critical thinking and problem-solving
* Global citizenship and sustainability
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| **Plurilingual competencies**:*Highlight the intercultural competencies addressed by this activity (at least one per category).** Switch from one language to another
* Express oneself in one language and understand the other
* Call upon the knowledge of a number of languages to make sense of a text
* Recognise words from a common international store in a new guise
* Mediate between individuals with no common language
* Bring one’s whole linguistic equipment into play
* Experiment with alternative forms of expression in different languages and dialects
* Exploit paralinguistics (mime, gesture, facial expression, etc.)
* Simplify one’s use of language
* Exploit language as a tool for mediation to:
* Create pluricultural space for communication and learning
* Reducing affective blocks/tensions
* Building bridges toward the new, the other
* Co-constructing new meaning
* Passing on information (and simplifying, elaborating, illustrating or adapting)
* Acting as intermediary
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| **Technologies**:*Highlight the technologies used in the realisation of this activity.** Web and Search Engines
* Open Source
* Open Educational Resources (OER)
* Analyzing Tools
* Databases and data analysis tools
* Cloud computing
* Communication Tools/Software
* Blog/Website
* Learning Management Systems
* Web/Video Conferencing Software
* Messaging Systems (Whatsapp, Google Hangouts)
* Social Networking and Content Curation Tools
* Group Work/Text Document Creation
* Cloud Storage (generally asynchronous)
* Collaboration (synchronous)
* Wiki
* Collaborative Mixed-Media Production
* Podcast
* Presentation Software
* Screencasting/Capturing
* Video Sharing
* Eportfolio
* Peer Review Software
* Assessment/Polling (e.g. Kahoot, Socrative, Quizlet)
* Production Software
* Graphics/Images
* Mind Mapping
* Note Taking
* Video Editing
* Audio Editing
* Curation
* Timelines
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| **Resources:**[The Plurilingual Lounge: Creatine new worldviews through social interaction](https://search-proquest-com.ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/docview/1338416011/49B9A881CF90431FPQ/1?accountid=15182) |