

Cultivating Interculturality

What is Interculturality?

Interculturality is the interaction of people from different cultural backgrounds using authentic language appropriately in a way that demonstrates knowledge and understanding of the cultures. It is the ability to experience the culture of another person and to be open minded, interested, and curious about that person and culture. Language learners must be able to evaluate personal feelings, thoughts, perceptions, and reactions in order to understand another culture and use that experience to reflect on their own life and surroundings.

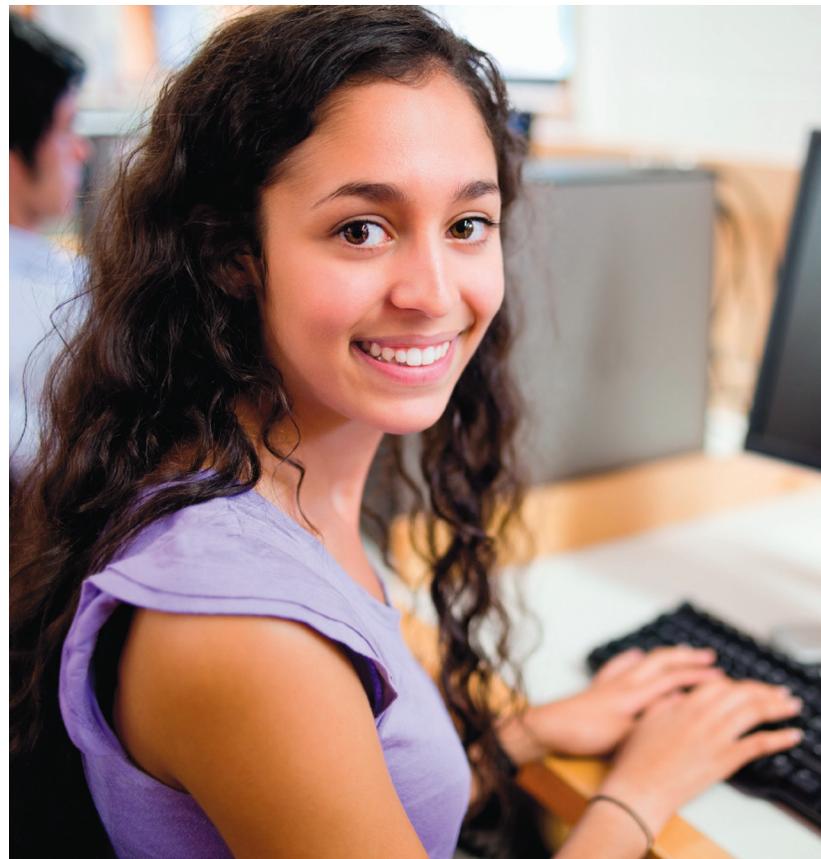
— Faye Rollings-Carter, provided by NCDPI in collaboration with NCSSFL

Wayside Publishing operates on the cutting-edge principle that to develop language skills and foster intercultural understanding, learners need multiple opportunities to reflect on their own culture and gain cultural knowledge of the communities within the target language early in the language learning process.

Intercultural reflection prompts and can-do self-assessments featured in each unit support teachers with the integration of cultural awareness, appreciation, and understanding within each theme.

How Can Students Demonstrate Interculturality?

- **Cultural Products & Practices¹:** Learners use their *language skills to investigate the world beyond their familiar environment.*
- **Cultural Perspectives:** Learners use their *language skills to recognize and understand others' ways of thinking as well as their own.*
- **Intercultural Interactions:** Learners use their *language skills and cultural understanding to interact in a cultural context other than their own.*



¹ LinguaFolio[®], NCSSFL. (2014). Interculturality. Retrieved from <http://ncssfl.org/secure/index.php?interculturality>, March 6, 2016.

Integrating Interculturality in Teaching and Learning

This graphic shows interculturality (i) at the core of learning languages, encompassing all of the goal areas of the *World Readiness Standards*, the communicative modes, and the steps a learner takes to acquire the mindset of an intercultural citizen: Knowing Myself, Exploring Communities, and Engaging with the World. The learning environment cultivates the attitudes of curiosity, open-mindedness, respect, tolerance, and empathy towards others that leads learners to want to communicate and engage in another language.



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Integrating Interculturality in Teaching and Learning

Interculturality is an outcome of a learning environment that purposefully cultivates the attitudes of curiosity, open-mindedness, respect, tolerance, and empathy towards others.

As learners become comfortable with learning about others and their cultures through products, practices, perspectives, and interactions, they develop the skills to reflect on their feelings, thoughts, perceptions, and reactions to understand what it is like to be in someone else's shoes.

1. Knowing Myself:² How can learners understand their own culture and use their language skills to identify and investigate products and practices of Spanish-speaking cultures?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By investigating, explaining, and reflecting on common cultural products of Spanish-speaking cultures. 	 <p>Mi progreso intercultural</p> <p>I can talk with peers from other cultures about similarities and differences between styles of art and music.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By investigating, explaining, and reflecting on common cultural practices of Spanish-speaking cultures. 	 <p>Mi progreso intercultural</p> <p>In my own and other cultures I can identify and compare how people take action to help others.</p> 
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2. Exploring Communities: How can learners use their language skills to recognize, understand, and connect to others' ways of thinking in their own community and beyond?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By identifying and comparing cultural beliefs and values to understand the cultural perspectives of Spanish-speakers. 	 <p>Mi progreso intercultural</p> <p>In my own and other cultures I can identify and compare the values expressed by the ways people celebrate friendships.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By demonstrating curiosity, open-mindedness, respect, tolerance, and empathy while exploring communities to gain a balanced understanding of Spanish-speaking cultures. 	 <p>Mi progreso intercultural</p> <p>I can demonstrate culturally appropriate behaviors as I discuss and try unfamiliar foods from other cultures.</p> 
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² Clementi, D. & Terrill, L. (2013). *Keys to Planning for Learning*. Alexandria, VA: American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages

3. Engaging with the World: How can learners use their language skills and cultural understanding to function at a survival level (novice) or functional level (intermediate) in cultural contexts outside the classroom?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By developing a sensitivity and awareness of cultural practices and perspectives to participate appropriately in cultural interactions. 	 <p>Mi progreso intercultural</p> <p>I can interact respectfully when participating in community tourism in other cultures.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By engaging with age-similar native speakers in a variety of Spanish-speaking countries by means of video blogs, interviews, blogs, podcasts, and social media messages to participate in cultural interactions. 	 <p>Mi progreso intercultural</p> <p>I can reflect on how to interact respectfully with peers from other cultures on topics of identity.</p> 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By engaging in self-assessment and intercultural reflections to participate in cultural interactions. 	 <p>Mi progreso intercultural</p> <p>In my own and other cultures I can compare how people use gestures and nonverbal cues in communication.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By problem-solving global issues in different cultural contexts to participate appropriately in cultural interactions. 	 <p>Mi progreso intercultural</p> <p>In my own and other cultures I can compare how communities work together to improve education.</p> 

