

Spanish 201

Cultural Event in the Spanish-speaking world

THE ASSIGNMENT

The cultural essay is designed to allow you to demonstrate your written proficiency in Spanish and cultural knowledge of the Spanish-speaking world. You will write a short paper, in Spanish, of 350-500 words, based on library research, including correct MLA format.

CHECKLIST FOR 201 RESEARCH ESSAY

DUE DATE

DATE COMPLETED

1. Approval of topic	5/17	_____
2. Preliminary bibliography and research	5/21	_____
3. Study guide answers	5/21	_____
4. Rough draft (final paper not accepted without a rough draft)	5/29	_____
5. Final paper	6/7	_____
6. Presentations	6/10 - 6/12	_____

GETTING STARTED

Choose a cultural topic from a Spanish-speaking country, region or that has to do with Spanish-speakers in another country or region and that has significant ties, an impact on, or relationship to the culture of the Spanish-speaking world.

Your instructor must approve your choice and may ask you to revise your topic if he/she feels that either you won't be able to find enough information about your topic or if he/she feels this topic does relate to Spanish, Hispanic and/or Latino culture in a significant way.

Research this event using a minimum of 3 sources:

- At least one of which must be periodical, newspaper or magazine articles from a Spanish language source (from full text newspaper or magazines in original print form or from on-line databases.) OR a Spanish language research database
- At least one of which should be a Spanish language listening based source (YouTube video, news segment, podcast, etc.)
- The other source(s) can be English language resources

Other resources can include:

- Genesee Community College Library Database link: <http://guides.genesee.edu/databases>
- Specialized cultural encyclopedias or books
- Spanish language databases available through Livonia Library (linked on Classroom)
- *Wikipedia is not a reliable academic source and should not be used*

PRESENTATION OF PRELIMINARY RESEARCH

- Working bibliography (list of a minimum of 3 sources, at least one of which must be periodical, newspaper or magazine articles)
- Completion of the Study Guide Questions in Spanish in complete sentences
- Evidence of research in the form of idea map, note cards, vocabulary lists, outline etc.

ESSAY REQUIREMENTS

- Introduction
 - Approximately 100 words
 - A summary of the cultural event, who, what, where, when
- Body
 - Approximately 200-300 words
 - Explain in detail the history and background of the current topic
 - Give specific details about the people involved
 - Explain what aspects of Hispanic, Latin or Spanish culture are either illustrated or affected by this event. Consider the way this event illustrates Hispanic, Spanish or Latino culture including values, beliefs, customs, practices, language and/or behavior.
 - What are the consequences, possible resolutions or implications regarding the future and this event? (if appropriate to topic)
 - Give specific examples, statistics, quotes, etc. that illustrate the importance and impact of this event.
 - What comparisons or contrasting elements of culture are represented in this event?
- Conclusion
 - Personal opinion. What do you think about this event? What would you do if you were part of this society or culture?
 - Explain the “so what.” Why do we care?
 - Why is this event important in our understanding of Hispanic/Spanish/Latino Culture?
- Format
 - Minimum 350 words, maximum 500 words in Spanish
 - Typed, double-spaced, 12 pt. font, 1 inch margins
 - MLA documentation style for both in-text citations and works cited page

GETTING STARTED ON THE ORAL PRESENTATION

Using your research, make an oral presentation to the class about the person you have chosen to investigate. This is not a reading of your paper.

PRESENTATION REQUIREMENTS

- **Content:**
 - Introduction
 - Summary of cultural event
 - Discussion of importance of event and impact on society, including specific examples
 - Explanations of why you chose this topic
 - Personal reactions to topic
 - Responses to questions from instructor and classmates
- **Format:**
 - Minimum of 5 minutes, maximum of 7 minutes
 - Appropriate use of visual aids (pictures, objects, timeline, Slides, etc.)
 - Appropriate use of memory aids
 - Each slide may have a title, dates and up to 5 words

A NOTE ABOUT ELECTRONIC TRANSLATORS

Electronic translators (translation websites, translation tools, etc.) do not help you to learn how to use the Spanish language effectively and they translate literally which does not result in grammatically correct sentences. Do not use an electronic translation device when writing your paper. If I suspect that you have used an electronic translator or that the work is not your own I will ask you to write a new paper on a new topic under supervision and a penalty will be assessed. If, without a reasonable doubt, the work you turn in is an automatic translation or not your own you will receive a 0 on this project.

Penalties will be assessed according to instructor guidelines for the following issues.

- Fails to complete all steps in the checklist
- Late work (no work will be accepted that is more than one week late)
- Fails to document sources using MLA Format in-text citations – Plagiarism
- Fails to document sources using MLA format works-cited page – Plagiarism
- Essays that are too short

Automatic Failure on Essay may occur for any of the following reasons

- Student submits work that is not his/her own (Plagiarized from outside source)
- Presents clear evidence of multiple uses of auto-translation such as, but not limited to, use of Google translate on any piece of the project
- Student submits work that was completed for another class (a prior or concurrent class).
- Paper content is inappropriate.
- Essays that are less than 300 words.

Interpretive Reading & Listening Annotation Template (Source 1)

Name: _____ Language: _____

Source #: _____ Circle One: Listening Reading

Source Link: _____

****NOTE: If the source is audio or video, please provide timestamps within the video or audio to show evidence from the source.**

Part A. Key Word Recognition: *Identify 10 words from the source and translate them to English. Be sure to circle or highlight them if it is a printed source.*

Target Language:	English:	Target Language:	English:

Part B: Main Idea: *Identify the main idea in the source using annotation. In addition, write the main idea of the source in the target language in your own words below:*

Part C. Supporting Details: *Write at least 5 supporting details from the article below in your own words in the target language, labeling where you found the information in the source:*

1. _____

2. _____

- 3. _____

- 4. _____

- 5. _____

Part E. Inferring Meaning from Context: *Determine the meaning of five unknown words based on context clues in the reading, providing evidence from the source.*

Write the sentence where the unknown is underlined in the original target language:	Write the meaning of the underlined word:

Interpretive Reading & Listening Annotation Template (Source 2)

Name: _____ Language: _____

Source #: _____ Circle One: Listening Reading

Source Link: _____

****NOTE: If the source is audio or video, please provide timestamps within the video or audio to show evidence from the source.**

Part A. Key Word Recognition: *Identify 10 words from the source and translate them to English. Be sure to circle or highlight them if it is a printed source.*

Target Language:	English:	Target Language:	English:

Part B: Main Idea: *Identify the main idea in the source using annotation. In addition, write the main idea of the source in the target language in your own words below:*

Part C. Supporting Details: *Write at least 5 supporting details from the article below in your own words in the target language, labeling where you found the information in the source:*

1. _____

2. _____

- 3. _____

- 4. _____

- 5. _____

Part E. Inferring Meaning from Context: *Determine the meaning of five unknown words based on context clues in the reading, providing evidence from the source.*

Write the sentence where the unknown is underlined in the original target language:	Write the meaning of the underlined word:

Study Guide Questions

1. ¿Cuál es el tema cultural que vas a investigar?
2. Explica la información básica del tema cultural.
 - ¿Quién?
 - ¿Qué?
 - ¿Dónde?
 - ¿Cuándo?
3. Explica con detalles los antecedentes históricos.
4. ¿Cuáles son los aspectos culturales que vemos en este tema? Por ejemplo, los valores, las creencias, los costumbres, el lenguaje, o el comportamiento típico asociado con este tema cultural.
5. ¿Cómo se comparan o contrastan con tu cultura estos aspectos?
6. ¿Cuáles son las consecuencias de este tema? ¿Hay aspectos negativos?
7. ¿Qué crees que pasará en el futuro acerca de este tema cultural?
8. ¿Por qué es importante este aspecto cultural?
9. El lugar del otro: Si fueras parte de esta sociedad, ¿Qué harías?
9. ¿Cuál es tu opinión personal de este tema? ¿En qué se basa tu opinión?

Writing correction symbols

Symbol	Meaning	How to correct
P	Punctuation	Add or change punctuation
=	Capitalization needed	Capitalize letter
VT	Verb tense	Use a different verb tense
SV	Subject-verb agreement	Change the verb ending to agree with the subject
TS	Tense shift	Make all of your tenses agree
SP	Spelling	Change spelling
∅	Unnecessary word	Delete the word
A	Adjective needed	Add an adjective
WW	Wrong word	Choose a word that makes more sense
RO	Run-on sentence	Make into two sentences
Frag.	Fragment (not complete sentence)	Add a verb, make complete sentence
V	Verb needed	Add a verb
WO	Word order	Change word order (different in Spanish)
Art.	Article needed	Add el, la, un, una...
Coll.	Slang/colloquialism	Change the word, usually doesn't make sense because it is a direct translation. Find the meaning behind the saying
Rep.	Repetitive	Change words to eliminate repetition
???	I don't understand what you are saying	Try again, ask for help
NA	Noun-adjective agreement	Change the ending on the adjective
Conj.	Conjugation error	Change the way the verb is conjugated (ex. stem-changer)

Grading Guidelines

SPA 201 Cultural Topic Essay / Presentation

Students are expected to reach Intermediate Mid of presentational proficiency according to ACTFL Guidelines.

All elements must be submitted in Spanish in complete sentences.

Study Guide and Rough Draft	4	3	2	1	0
Study Guide Content	Thorough, detailed, complete, interesting, high quality, accurate	All questions answered, may lack detail or insight	Answers are too general, gaps begin to appear	Incomplete, missing information,	Content is not accurate, major portions are missing
Study Guide Variety of Tenses and Structures	Student attempts to use a wide variety of tenses and structures – takes risks	Some effort made to use a variety of tenses and structures	Somewhat limited variety of tenses and/or structures -plays it safe	Extremely limited variety of tenses and/or structures	Lacks variety in tenses and/or structures
Rough Draft Organization	Well organized, uses transitions, contains introduction, body, conclusion, coherent	Contains introduction, body and conclusion, attempts transitions	Organizational problems begin to interfere with quality of essay	Major organizational issues need to be addressed	Extremely disorganized
Rough Draft Grammar and Vocabulary	Demonstrates proof-reading through corrections of basic errors, demonstrates knowledge of a variety of tenses and modes, vocabulary is interesting and appropriate	Some evidence of proof-reading, attempts to use past, present, future and/or subjunctive when appropriate, vocabulary is varied	Multiple errors in basic structures, does not present evidence of proof-reading, lacks variety in tense, mode, structure and/or vocabulary	Grammatical and/or vocabulary errors interfere with comprehension	Extremely limited knowledge of grammar, and/or extremely limited vocabulary
Rough Draft Content	Thorough, interesting, complete, explains cultural topic in a coherent and detailed manor, discusses the importance and/or implication of this cultural topic	Covers each aspect of paper, gaps may begin to appear in knowledge, may need to work on balance	Major gaps in knowledge, lacks either summary or explanation of importance	Content is either missing or too basic, does not attempt to describe the “so what.”	Content is not accurate or inappropriate

Final paper	4	3	2	1	0
Cleaned up errors	Grammatical, vocabulary, content and organizational errors noted on rough draft have been addressed	Most errors have been corrected	Some errors have been corrected or only certain errors have been corrected (grammar but not content for example)	Limited corrections	Fails to correct errors
You've taught me something	Informative, insightful, interesting, clearly explains cultural topic, background, implications for future and/or cultural significance	Demonstrates some knowledge regarding topic, although minor gaps may appear, too general	Demonstrates limited knowledge of topic, gaps in details of event, implications for future and/or cultural significance, leaves reader with questions	Essay fails to inform reader about topic	Inaccurate
Cultural Content	Includes significant comments on cultural aspects such as values, language, rituals, roles, customs, practices and/or expected behaviors	Includes comments on cultural aspects such as values, language, rituals, roles, customs, practices and/or expected behaviors	Comments on cultural aspects are not significant, varied and/or sufficient	Major gaps in cultural content appear	Fails to comment on cultural aspects
Made an impression	<i>Wow! Outstanding high quality work, I will remember this paper after the semester</i>	<i>Great job! I enjoyed your work and learned something, your effort is evident</i>	<i>Good work, an average essay that has some good points</i>	<i>Lack-luster, essay fails to impress</i>	<i>Final Essay still in need of major revision.</i>
Personal Growth	<i>Throughout this project you have stretched your abilities and made great progress from your personal starting point</i>	<i>You have made good effort throughout the project and show substantial progress from your personal starting point</i>	<i>Some personal growth is evident however you could have done more to reach your potential</i>	<i>Minor growth is evident, you haven't made an effort to reach your potential</i>	<i>Fails to demonstrate growth over the course of the project.</i>
Cleaned up errors	Grammatical, vocabulary, content and organizational errors noted on rough draft have been addressed	Most errors have been corrected	Some errors have been corrected or only certain errors have been corrected (grammar but not content for example)	Limited corrections	Fails to correct errors

Presentation	4	3	2	1	0
Visual aids	Visual aids (pictures, Slides, etc.) help to explain and expand cultural topic. Variety in resources used. It adds the verbal presentation.	Visual aids (pictures, Slides, etc.) help to explain cultural topic. Used at least 2 different visual resources.	Visual aids (pictures, Slides, etc.) are limited in their help to explain the cultural topic.	Visual aid doesn't aid in explanation of content or is distracting from verbal presentation	Does not include visual aids
Memorization	Presentation is completely memorized. Does not rely on the use of memory aids. Obvious that presentation was practices	Presentation is mostly memorized. May use presentation as a memory aid.	Presentation is somewhat memorized. Speech is hesitant.	Relies almost exclusively on memory aids. Speech is very hesitant.	Does not attempt memorization of presentation
Length of presentation	Presentation is between 5 and 7 minutes.	Presentation goes over or under by time limit up to 30 seconds	Presentation goes over or under by time limit up to 1 minute	Presentation goes over or under by time limit up to 3 minutes	Does not attempt presentation

48 points = 100	41 points = 88	34 points = 77	27 points = 65
47 points = 98	40 points = 87	33 points = 75	26 points = 63
46 points = 97	39 points = 85	32 points = 73	25 points = 62
45 points = 95	38 points = 83	31 points = 72	24 points = 60
44 points = 93	37 points = 82	30 points = 70	Points below 24 will be calculated as a percentage out 48 possible points
43 points = 92	36 points = 80	29 points = 68	
42 points = 90	35 points = 78	28 points = 67	