Interpersonal Communication: Activities for Engaging Students

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Goal

After participating in this session, I can:

- Explain what Interpersonal Activities are;
- Design an Interpersonal Activity with an appropriate evaluation.
Interpersonal Communication

- Communication between two people who wish to exchange, negotiate, clarify, or confirm information
- Can be written or spoken
- Written examples: email, text, “chat”
- Spoken examples: conversation, telephone call
- Should include more than one interaction
What challenges do we face when incorporating Interpersonal Communication in our classrooms?
Challenges

What challenges do we face when incorporating Interpersonal Communication in our classrooms?

- How do we know they are on task?
- Thrifty use of instructional minutes.
- Grading the task.
Task 1
Chat with the people sitting near you...

Find out:

- Name, school, subject and levels they teach.
- When and how they first knew they wanted to be a teacher.
- One thing unexpected about them.

**Strong recommendation: Jot down some notes!**
Next Step (one that can be evaluated)

Get up! Bring your notes.

Find a partner you haven’t spoken with yet today. Triplets can work, but the task will be harder to accomplish. You need one computer between you.

Open Vocaroo.

Play with it a little--make sure you can record.
Next Step (one that can be evaluated)

Task: You and your partner have to talk with each other and discover:

   TWO things that both of you AND two other people you just talked to have in common.

Record the conversation you have using Vocaroo. You must talk until you accomplish this, or until the time runs out.

(Upload your recording to Schoology)-this is what the students would do in our classes.
Sample Interpersonal activity

Watch the following video. Participate in the discussion on Schoology. You must:

1. Initiate an idea of at least 3 full sentences. Here are some suggestions:
   a. Give your opinion of the video.
   b. Which part of the video did you like the best?
   c. Would you like to visit this museum one day? Why?
   d. Compare this museum with others you have visited.

2. Respond to at least 2 of your classmates using 1-2 sentences.
Evaluating an activity like this

Make yourself a general rubric that you can use repeatedly for discussions. The rubric needs to evaluate the following:

To what extent does each student, as they participate in the discussion, contribute to moving the conversation forward? Do they make an interesting and perhaps provocative statement? Do they ask questions that require deep answers? Do they respond in such a way that others will want to also respond? First and foremost, it needs to be about communication.

Later, you can worry about accuracy syntax, spelling, conjugation errors, etc.).
Read the handout. Raise your hand when you are done.

Open TodaysMeet. Use the strip of paper you are given to log into a chat room. Give yourself an UNIDENTIFIABLE username (such as SpingChicken61).

You will be in the chat room with 2-3 other people in this room.

React to the article in a “chat” situation. Note: You cannot delete comments. A transcript of your chat will be used to evaluate your participation.
Ideas for your chat:

- Copy a sentence you like and tell why.
- Given an opinion about something expressed in the passage.
- Predict some of the solutions offered later in the article (which you will read tomorrow in class).
- Make sure you react thoughtfully to your companion's posts.
- Participate as much as you are able in the time allotted. But remember, quality is just as important as quantity.
Task 4
PearDeck: Let’s assess some of our learning today.

Everyone needs a computer, phone, or iPad.

Log into PearDeck. Join the Flashcard Factory. Use the projected code

After everyone has joined, PearDeck will divide you into 2 teams. Within the teams, you will be put in pairs. You must collaborate with your partner in order to complete flashcards to help lead your team to victory. One of you will draw, and the other one will write. You should talk about how best to accomplish your task. Make sure BOTH of you are done before you submit a flashcard.

Note: Flashcards will be publicly evaluated.
Use Schoology!!

Advantages:

- Can organize these activities by class
- Can accept most kinds of media: videos, voice recordings, docs, etc.
- Rubrics can be built in!
- You can give feedback right on the site.
Directions for Creating an Interpersonal Activity

- Create an activity or discussion on Schoology.
- Upload the Task/Write the directions.
- Have students respond to Qs that go with the task. They should upload their answers to the site.

Ideas for tasks:
- Watch a video and participate in a discussion about it.
- Look at a work of art and write a conversation about it in a shared Google doc or in Today’sMeet.
- Give them a topic and a task (ex.: persuade the other person that you are right) and have them record their conversation about it. Use Schoology or Vocaroo.
I highly recommend the following publications from ACTFL:


[California Subject Matter Projects](#)