

**ESOL**  
in Higher Ed

# **Culture Project Template**

**By: J. Govoni and J. Flaitz**

1. Design your Power Point or Prezi presentation based on the criteria provided in class.
2. Add visuals/graphics to make it more interesting and creative.
3. Include the following items:

Country  
Culture  
Grade Level(s)

Explain the focus of your presentation; that is, what is the **Essential Question**?

Include theories (e.g., SCT, Zone of Proximal Development, etc.) connected to the effects of culture in language learning and school achievement.



Show how an awareness of the values and beliefs of a culture support the teaching and learning of ELLs from the given culture.



Briefly describe the geography of the country.





Why are these considered important by this country?

In other words, provide information as to what the culture deems important and why.

This information will support your understanding of the nature and role of culture, cultural groups, and individual cultural identities in the classroom.

Are there landmarks which are parallel in the United States?

(e.g., the eternal flame at the Arc de Triomphe in France for the unknown soldier; just as in Washington, D.C. there is a similar memorial)

**Compare landmarks with U.S.**

- Provide visuals or descriptions to show something unique about this country.
- The items should shed light upon what the culture deems important and why.

**Representative items from country**





What are the people like? Show the richness of the people to better understand the culture you chose.



- Describe the people from the country.
- Compare country/culture with U.S.

What is the typical dress of the culture?

What do they wear for certain celebrations/festivities?

How do these compare to what to the U.S.?

**Compare clothing with U.S.**



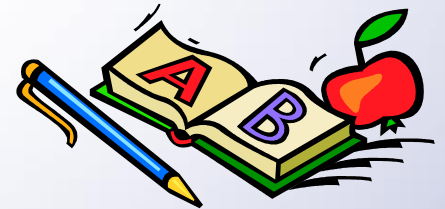
What are famous dishes from the country?

How do these compare to what we eat in the U.S.?



Provide a visual of the alphabet – especially if non-Roman characters are used.

Briefly describe the history of the language.



Share a few useful expressions and phrases in the language.

- Give the English equivalent.
- Provide a pronunciation guide (optional).

What do you want your students to appreciate about:

- cultural diversity,
- linguistic diversity,
- art, music, architecture – the products of cultures, and
- building a community of learners in the classroom?



# ESOL Stereotyping, Racism, Discrimination

Explain in a grade/age appropriate manner, the definition of stereotyping, racism, and/or discrimination.

Provide the hindrances of stereotyping and overgeneralizing.

Present ways for all students to better understand the danger of stereotyping and how it may lead to prejudice.

# ESOL Common Stereotypes of the Country/Culture

Present stereotypes of the country/culture.

Reveal why they are not valid.

Describe ways to support your students in understanding the truth.





Provide exciting, interesting, imaginative information about the country and its culture.

This is an opportunity to provide students an appreciation and respect for the diversity of culture, language, and heritage of your chosen country/culture.

**Wrap-Up**



Create a set of questions to support student learning.

Remember to activate thinking at higher orders of cognitive complexity.

The questions should cover a range of cultural interests, specific stereotypes of the culture (and why they're problematic), and an appreciation for the richness of the culture.

In addition, the questions should foster a home/school connection for ELLs and their families.



Design an activity appropriate to the grade level/age of students which fosters the interrelationship between language and culture.

The activity should connect with the culture you are presenting. Explain the connection.



**Activity**

Provide resources for your students to explore in order to learn more about the culture.

In addition, provide resources for parents, families of ELLs, and the school community to discover the culture.

Include a bibliography of your resources that you consulted in designing your presentation on a culture.

