

A Greeting from the Future

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Submitted to Becki Maurio for SPAN-102



Summary

For this signature assignment, I had to pretend that the year was 2039 and that I was about to attend Spanish-102's 20-year class reunion. I was to submit a recorded introduction to my classmates ahead of time; summarizing what I had done in the last 20 years and reminiscing about how Spanish class used to be. Basically, future-me did stuff like become an engineer, invent a car that runs on water, study Spanish abroad, travel with my husband to set up "water car" factories, and adopt three Chilean boys. Also, future-me reminisced about Spanish-102's in-class competitions for extra credit and a classroom climate that vaguely reminded her of her time studying abroad.

General Education Connections

Communicate ideas in written, oral, and other modes as appropriate to a situation and audience. | Evaluate sources of information for accuracy, relevance, and reliability. | Use technology tools to manage, integrate, and evaluate digital information. | Explore issues through creative, interdisciplinary, and innovative approaches.

This signature assignment helped me develop skills in oral communication by giving me a chance to practice pronunciation and fluency. Practicing my script and hearing myself speak the language more smoothly with every run-through made me more confident in my speaking skills and encouraged me to look for more opportunities to use the language. This assignment also helped me to practice employing different thinking strategies to develop well-reasoned judgment: to conjugate a Spanish verb, many variables must be taken into consideration, such as the context it is used in, who is doing the action, and when the action took place. For each verb I used in the recording, I had to consider each of these variables and develop the most well-reasoned judgment my understanding of the language would allow.



Challenges

One challenge that frequently arose as I completed this signature assignment was my limited vocabulary. It was tough to be creative while writing the script because I did not know very much vocabulary outside of the basics. I was able to use a Spanish-English dictionary when necessary but it is always a risk to work with unfamiliar words because you can unknowingly communicate the wrong idea. Despite holding the entire Spanish language in my hand, my level 2 Spanish was not yet capable of employing it; that was my one challenge.

Application

In the future, I will definitely be given the chance to employ the language skills I have learned through this assignment; already, I have had several opportunities to use my Spanish. Realistically, Spanish may become a part of my future, just perhaps not as drastically as I indicated in my "A Greeting from the Future." In today's environment, being bilingual will make me a valuable employee and would provide opportunities that I'd never dream of before. I have always thought that it would be cool to have fluency in another language, and the more Spanish classes I take, the more realistic that possibility becomes. I do not believe that speaking Spanish will become what I do for a career, but realistically, I see it integrated into my future hobbies. South America is beautiful, and perhaps in the time to come I will spend a holiday there or participate in a mission trip.