

Using Technology to Connect World Languages to Other Disciplines

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More “Connections” Activities

- A. Socratic Seminars with a scientific text in target language on the Internet: Students listen to a podcast or a Khan Academy lecture on a scientific topic in the target language, making notes of key terms and their questions. Students in the inner circle discuss their understanding of the topic; the outer circle takes notes on what the inner circle discusses and analyzes their performance. They debrief and then circles switch. Focus is on dialogue, not debate.

- B. Mock Science Fair: Students work in teams preparing a science fair project in the L2. All members of the team share research using authentic materials online. Team members divide up roles of making a graphic display. Language-rich artifacts could include a website, wiki or blog. Podcasts and videos could be used as well.

- C. Environmental News -Small groups of students make videos on environmental issues in the countries where their TL is spoken. After all students research the hot issues, students make video interviews playing the roles of journalist/environmental experts. The rest of the class becomes audience and asks questions about the issues.

The assessment of these student-produced activities would involve a rubric that notes the appropriate use of thematic vocabulary, images as well as in-depth research of the themes.