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World Languages

Reconnecting with Earth through Gratitude

During the month of November (and leading up to Thanksgiving), students in my EAP (English for Academic Purposes) Writing 3 class will contemplate the concept of Gratitude . We will discuss what the word means and how people outwardly express feelings of gratitude.

OBJECTIVE:

Beginning in the first class in November, students will learn about the tradition of Thanksgiving in the US, how and why it is celebrated and what being thankful means. We will also examine how other countries and cultures celebrate giving thanks. Students will be expected to keep a daily gratitude journal. In it, they will be instructed to write what they feel grateful for and perform an act of gratitude each day. We will discuss different ways to show gratitude towards others and towards the planet, with more emphasis placed on being grateful for our planet and our physical environment. Finally, students will reflect on how this experience has impacted their lives.

PLAN:

1. In the beginning of November, students will research (individually) the origin of Thanksgiving in the US and around the world. They will come together in small groups and share what they found. Following this, they will discuss why and how different cultures celebrate their versions of “Thanksgiving”.
2. Each week in the last 30 minutes of class, students will share some of the things they have been thankful for and actions they have done to show gratitude during that week.
3. At the end of the month, students will gather in small groups and share what they learned from the experience of keeping a daily gratitude journal and performing acts of gratitude.
4. Students will write a short reflection paper on the experience of being grateful and showing gratitude.
5. Students will be invited to share their reflection papers with the class on our day of “Thanksgiving”.

EVALUATION:

Students will be evaluated on the completion of their journals and reflection paper. They will be graded on the mechanics and grammar of their reflection papers, but not on the grammar in their journals.