

Artifacts as Gateways to Culture: Bridging Products to Perspectives

ACTFL Teaching and Learning of Culture SIG Practice-oriented Paper Presentations
Saturday, November 22, 2025: 2:45 PM - 3:00 PM CST
Ernest Morial Convention Center
Room: Room 225

Proposal No:

1805

Type:

Practice-Oriented Paper

Applicable Language:

Non-language specific

Language of Presentation:

English

Lead Presenter:

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Content and Purpose:

This session introduces the Artifact-Based Culture Capsule (ABCC) model, a research-informed approach that connects cultural products to practices and perspectives through the study of authentic artifacts. Students examine an artifact from a target culture to form hypotheses about its substance and function. They engage with authentic texts showcasing it in use, refine their hypotheses, compare it to their own cultural products, and analyze the perspectives that shaped the artifact.

Grounded in Moran's Cultural Knowings framework, the ABCC model fosters dialogic, student-centered cultural exploration while keeping students immersed in the target language. Aligned with ACTFL's World-Readiness Standards and High-Leverage Teaching Practices, the ABCC model empowers teachers to design lessons that engage learners through authentic artifacts, texts, and immersive cultural experiences, fostering cross-cultural awareness.

Outcomes:

I can select cultural artifacts that effectively represent the perspectives of the target culture, considering their relevance, authenticity, and potential to foster student understanding of cultural products, practices, and perspectives in meaningful ways.

I can create and facilitate scaffolded activities to guide students to interpret authentic texts, such as articles, videos, or images, that demonstrate the artifact in use within the target culture, helping students to make connections between the artifact and the cultural practices it reflects, while consistently staying in the target language.

I can create and facilitate scaffolded activities that encourage students to refine their initial hypotheses, compare artifacts to those from their own culture, and identify and analyze the underlying cultural perspectives in both cultures based on the artifact and its use, while consistently staying in the target language.

Strategies for Engagement:

Participants will engage actively through hands-on activities and collaborative discussions. The session will begin with a brief, research-based rationale of the Artifact-Based Culture Capsule (ABCC) with examples from Spanish and French high school Novice classrooms, and then a demonstration of the ABCC framework, where attendees experience artifact-based exploration as students would with scaffolded activities following the stages of the model, including hypothesis formation, interpretation of related authentic texts, and cultural perspectives analysis. Interactive discussions will guide participants in refining their ideas. The session concludes with a group share-out, allowing attendees to discuss insights, receive feedback, and explore how the ABCC model aligns with their own teaching contexts. Throughout, the presenters will model strategies for staying in the target language and incorporating dialogic learning that is scaffolded to support Novice and Intermediate learners.

Program Guide Description:

This session presents the Artifact-Based Culture Capsule (ABCC) model, a research-informed approach that uses artifacts to connect cultural products to practices and perspectives. Participants will explore strategies for selecting artifacts, guiding students to interpret authentic texts, and facilitating activities to analyze cultural perspectives.

Audience Level:

Secondary

Keywords:

Interculturality

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