

# **Self presentations**

## *French II*

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### **Introduction**

In this lesson, students practice the four basic skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) with an emphasis on speaking and pronunciation. They use laptops, microphones and the Audacity sound recording software, along with Microsoft Word and Blackboard. The voice recording software allows students to reflect on their speaking abilities, and modify accordingly while Blackboard allows students to share their presentations with classmates, and also provides an opportunity for a listening and written assessment.

### **❖ Objectives**

- Content Objectives
  - Students will demonstrate speaking skills by recording an original audio file they create.
  - Students will demonstrate auditory skills by listening and assessing other students' recordings.
  - Students will reflect on their own pronunciation, intonation, and inflection skills by listening to and modifying the recording of their presentation.
  - Students will demonstrate the ability to answer simple questions with correct grammatical structures.
- Technology Skills Objectives
  - Students will use the tools available in Word to type in French, using all of the common diacritical marks available. They will also become familiar with the proofing tools available in Word.
  - Students will use Audacity, a voice recording program, in order to capture the oral presentation.
  - Students will create a thread in Blackboard, using the Discussion Board tool, to share the auditory file with classmates.
  - Students will submit answers to questions by using the digital dropbox in Blackboard.

### **❖ Goals**

- National Standards for Foreign Language Education
  - Standard 1.3 Communication: Students present information, concepts, and ideas to an audience of listeners or readers on a variety of topics.
- Illinois State Learning Standards for Foreign Language
  - 28.A.3a Comprehend main messages of simple oral and audio presentations with assistance from resources.
  - 28.B.2b Produce language using proper pronunciation, intonation and inflection.
  - 28.D.2a Write on familiar topics using appropriate grammar, punctuation and capitalization.

### **❖ Learning Activities**

- Students will listen to several oral presentations of French-speaking people (using the textbook CD series). Next the students will follow along in their textbooks as the teacher replays the presentations. The teacher will then ask short questions about each presentation to check overall comprehension. After this short introduction to the topic, the students will begin to write their own presentations.
- Students will log on to Blackboard to access a template to use as a model to type an original presentation in Microsoft Word. Each presentation should include:
  - Name of the student
  - Age of student
  - City where the student lives.
  - Parent or guardian's occupation
  - Student likes (at least two)
  - Student dislikes (at least one)
  - Future goals
- Recording presentation using the Audacity software
  - Students will use a microphone and the Audacity software to record presentation.
  - Students may modify auditory content by listening to presentation and re-recording when necessary.
  - Students will export file as WAV, save to S: drive, and eventually post in a thread in Blackboard, using the Discussion Board tool.
- Student Exposure to Threads
  - Once the auditory file has been posted in a Blackboard thread, students will access the threads of classmates.
  - Students will listen to the presentations of three other people and then answer questions about each presentation. The questions will be posted in Blackboard and students will post their responses to the teacher using the digital dropbox. Students must answer all six questions, choosing two for each presentation. The questions will be similar to the following, but in French.
    - How old is the person?
    - What does he/she like to do?
    - What does he/she want to do in the future?
    - What is the occupation of his/her father? Mother?
    - Where does he/she live?
    - What does he/she not like to do?

#### ❖ **Laptop Implications**

- This project is facilitated by the use of technology. In the past, students would have presented orally to the entire class. The technology allows each student to participate and also permits students to analyze their own presentations.
- Students are able to post their answers to the teacher using the digital dropbox.

#### ❖ **Role of the Teacher**

- Model correct pronunciation and create an environment where students can apply their knowledge to develop a successful end product.

#### ❖ **Student Reaction**

- Student reaction has been positive with the use of Audacity. Students do not feel the same pressure that they would, having to present to the class as a whole. However, students are apprehensive about hearing themselves recorded.

❖ **Assessment**

- Students will post their individual presentations to Blackboard allowing the teacher to make suggestions about their presentations in order to improve pronunciation and grammar.
- The teacher will be able to correct student responses to the presentations, checking that answers are in complete sentences and do not have any grammatical mistakes.