

Domain: Content

Standard 7: Teachers understand that language learning is most likely to occur when learners are trying to use the language for genuine communicative purposes. Teachers understand that the content of the language course is the language that learners need in order to listen, to talk about, to read and write about a subject matter or content area. Teachers design their lessons to help learners acquire the language they need to successfully communicate in the subject or content areas they want/ need to learn about.

Teachers need to know that language learning and growth occur most when students are involved in communicative language activities under meaningful context. Besides that, language learning should also promote students higher-ordering thinking skills and further their content learning. To achieve the above mentioned goals, teachers need to create and adapt the curriculum and instruction content that are not only engaging, authentic and practical for students' learning needs, but could scaffold and promote their content learning.

I will use the **Artifact G** to demonstrate my understanding of this goal is my lesson plan that I did for my practicum teaching in 2015 spring semester.

1) **Learners and learning:** I presented students with an very practical topic titled "shopping for apartment", which students in my class will find familiar and could have something to talk about it. Meanwhile. I

will foster students' higher-order thinking skills by making students' conduct some comparative study. For example, students will talk about what kind of housing do their home countries have versus the type of housing in America, and students also will talk about the differences of renting or purchasing a house in their home countries, then they will work collaboratively find out the reasons behind these differences. After the comparison, they may know the strength and weakness of people's way of renting and purchasing a house, and could build up their own skills of hunting for a house. This lesson plan will also provide students opportunities for more oral production and improvement of their reading strategies. In my future class, I will continue use the similar activities to let students work collaboratively to find solutions to overcome the cultural and language differences, and make presentations about their findings and viewpoints. Since group project will teach students how to analyze and address the problems from different perspectives, as well as how to understand and appreciate culture and language differences.

2) **Learning environment:** In my future class, I will do as what I did for my lesson plan. First, create a friendly and open environment for students. Let them talk freely about their prior good or bad experiences of renting or buying a house both in their home countries and in America. Also allow them to use their own languages to communicate with their peers to facilitate their discussions and deepen their understandings. When they did not get the right answer or get

sidetracked, I won't criticize them, instead, I will give them feedback and show them the right path. So students will feel safe and comfortable to express their ideas, argue their points and critique each other's perspectives, through which students will improve their language and thinking skills simultaneously.

3) **Curriculum:** The curriculum consists of the anchor texts and multi-media resources, which will train students' reading and analytical skills for text structure; besides, students will engage in the meaningful and communicative language activities in authentic context to improve their language skills. For instance, students will learn how to do the online research by reading and analyzing the relevant online language materials, like logging online to look through the real house ads for rent, also the group project will make students capitalize on their higher-order thinking skills and background knowledge to complete the class assignments successfully, for example, instead of going to the brick-and-mortar real estate to look for a house for rent, students will know how to use English to look for more online resources about the housing price, students also could talk to each other about the pros and cons of the houses and make the decision together.

4) **Assessment:** The assessment of this class would be the synthesis of students' class participation, presentation, online research report and the completion of the assignment. For example, students' recapitulation of what they have learned from the previous class will

become one of the formative assessments to check their language and cultural learning. I plan to incorporate short-essay question and composition into the final assessment, to measure their comprehension and integrated language skills. For students who may still have difficulties understanding or using the language to express themselves in comparative culture study, I will modify the assessment to cater to their needs. For instance, I may provide relevant but easier questions for them, and encompass the test content reflecting students' first language and cultural background, so that they could relate easily and will learn more.