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“Engaging Language Learners in Active Communication”

In this poster, a self-reflection activity with multifaceted benefits for language learners is presented. Students engage in spoken journals and interviews using video cameras, cellphones, or voice recorders.  This activity provides opportunity for real-world application of language skills and motivates students to take ownership of their learning by practicing specific languages points, reflecting on their own production, and then using the language to communicate with others in the classroom and in their community. Using the video camera empowers the students and enables the reflection on much more than just his/her textbook knowledge of the target language. They become bold interviewers holding the camera between themselves and the interviewees.  The recordings provide opportunities for future listening activities, error analysis, and evaluation by the instructor. In addition, the activity promotes technological literacy. Students are exposed to and learn how to utilize cameras, phones, USB drives, and computer applications/software.