



An experiment in taking communication beyond the classroom

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Students Background

- First Intermediate
- Japn201 (Genki L18~L23)
 - experienced group project in Japn200
- 25 students
 - groups of 5



Project objectives

- Develop pragmatic language competence
 - decrease anxiety to talk to a native speaker of Japanese
 - expose to culture idea directly
 - present understanding of culture



Process

4weeks	Choose a topic
	Grouping
3weeks	Make a questionnaire
	Pilot test in class
2weeks	Interview in class
	Interview outside of class
4days	Submit a vocabulary list
0	Presentation
after	Submit a recorded tape and report



Choosing a topic

- **Introduce Japanese culture in class**
 - current affairs in Japan
 - cultural aspects

- **Communicate on WebCT**
 - exchange information
 - discussion



Questionnaire

- 10~15 questions
- Organize coherently
- Feedback - Pilot test - Revise



Presentation

- 20 minute presentation
 - power point
 - short skit

- 5 minute question time
 - Japanese judge
 - other groups

Skit





Evaluation

- **Japanese judges**

- 8 ~12 people
- native speakers of Japanese
- comments

- **Peer judges**

- evaluate other groups' work
- comments



Evaluation Criteria

- **Preparation**

how well did they prepare and research their topic ?

- **Organization**

how effectively did they organize their presentation?

- **Accuracy**

how accurately and clearly did they speak?
(grammar, vocabulary pronunciation, intonation)

- **Presentation**

how well did they present their topic ? (performance, attitude, eye-contact)

- **Answering questions**

how well did they answer questions?



What are the overall benefits ?

- Deeper understanding of J-culture
- Increase confidence in speaking
- Deeper understanding of J-people
- New vocabulary



Difficulties

- Lack of interview skills
- Analyzing results
- Speaking to the audience
- Finding people to interview
- Answering questions



Skit

- Analyze results
- Integrate previous knowledge and new information from interview
- Ideas from J-TV shows
- Include information from Internet



Further development

- Inspiration to an interesting topic
- Effective questionnaire
- Interview skills
- Support for conflicts in group