Say Yes to Success! Strategies for Language Learning

Dr. Krista S. Chambless

The University of Alabama at Birmingham

kristachambless@uab.edu

Goals

I can

- Describe characteristics of Gen Z
- List the needs of Gen Z in the classroom
- Explain the importance of teaching WL students about proficiency
- Name learning strategies WL students need to be successful
- Create activities that teach/ practice various strategies

Generation Z

- Born 1995-2012
- 25% of US Population
- Statistics on Gen Z
 - Most diverse and multicultural of any US generation
 - Risk Averse and Cynical
 - Anxious about face-to-face interactions

Generation Z

- Considered digital natives-Never known a time without cell phones and computers
- Multi-taskers
- Constantly update social media
- "Google it" mindset

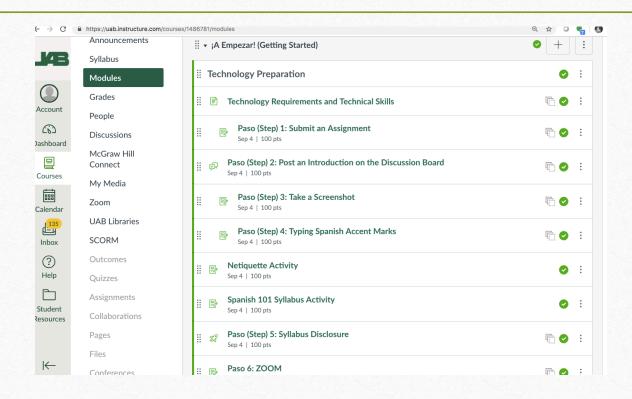
Generation Z

- 8 seconds to grab their attention
- Should be called Generation "Why?"
 - They question everything
 - Expect solid reasons for doing something

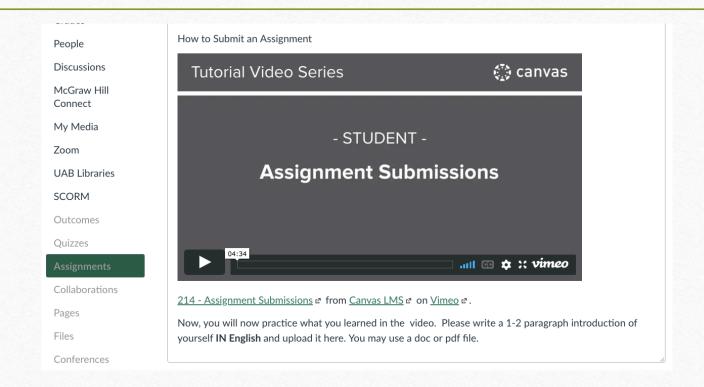
Generation Z needs

- to be taught how to use the technology required in the course
- the opportunity to practice the technology in their native language before adding the stress of using it in the target language
- to understand the concept of proficiency and what it means for an introductory language course
- to be taught specific language learning strategies

Teaching Technology Skills

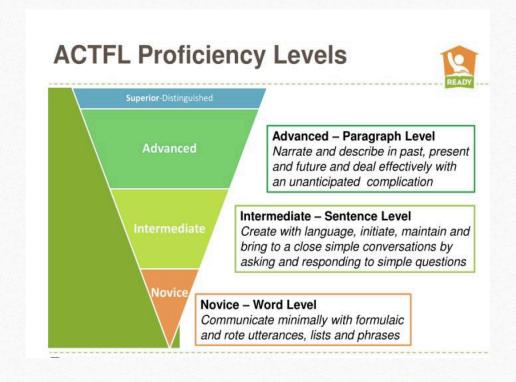


Teaching Technology Skills



What is proficiency?

- Proficiency: (n) what individuals can do with language in terms of speaking, writing, listening, and reading in real-world situations in a spontaneous and non-rehearsed context
- In other words, it is how well you can understand and communicate in a language



Novice Mid

- Responds to question by2 or 3 words at a time
- Pauses frequently
- Able to list and create simple sentences



Your turn
Answer the following questions on the discussion board under the "Proficiency" thread.

- Describe proficiency in your own words
- The goal of this course is novice high. Describe in your own words what a novice high learner sounds like.

Teaching Modes of Communication

What is the mode of communication?

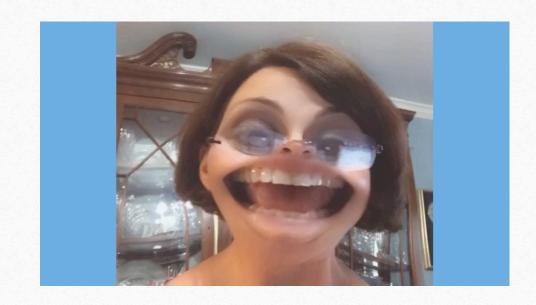
- Prepare a video introducing yourself to the class
- Watch a travel video and write down places of interest.
- Send a text message to a friend.

Myths of World Language Learning

- Everyone Speaks English
- Language Skills are nice but not necessary
 - Proficiency in the workplace
- We do not need to learn a language. We have Google Translate.
 - A different lesson for each of the first 3 introductory courses

Google Translate

- Spanish 101-They watch Jimmy Fallon's Google Translate songs
- 102-The tortoise and the Hare
- 201- Everyday slang words

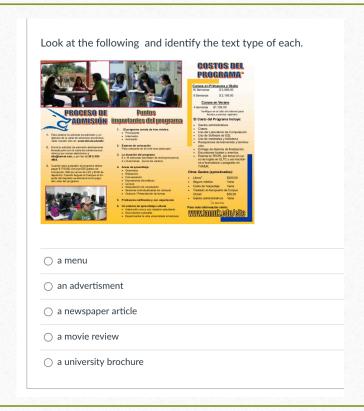






- Be an extrovert and participate
- Go with the flow
- Use circumlocution
- Try to Level up
- Increase your input

- Reading Strategies
 - Using cognates
 - Text type
 - Guessing meaning from context
 - When to use a dictionary





Guessing meaning from context





Guessing meaning from context





- Writing Strategies
 - Brainstorm in the TL
 - KISS for Novice (low/mid)
 - Level up for Novice high/Intermediate
 - When to use a dictionary
 - Write
 - Edit
 - Rewrite

• Level up your proficiency



Me gusta comer. ¿Con quién?

Me gusta comer con mis amigos.

• Level up your proficiency



Me gusta comer.
Me gusta comer tacos en restaurantes mexicanos con mis amigos.

Conversation Strategies



- Conversation Strategies
 - Expressions of interest
 - Asking follow-up questions
 - Circumlocution
 - Non-Verbal Communication
 - More expressions/idioms

- Listening Strategies
 - You will not understand everything-that is OK
 - Remove distractions
 - Do not translate into English
 - Listen for the gist
 - Guess meaning from context
 - Take notes

Want More Information?

Contact Krista Chambless at kristachambless@uab.edu

Check out my podcast with Dr. Sandrine Hope

Step Into Mondays on Stitcher

Step Into Mondays on Anchor

Step Into Mondays on Apple Podcasts

Step Into Mondays on Spotify

