

Language in My Life

The purpose of this activity is that you get to know your new language and to use it well so that it stays with you for a long time! Evaluation is based on content and the ability to justify your opinions and thoughts with concrete evidence.

Reading options: You may read a blog, article, chapter of a novel, a short story, or a children's book originally written in your target language.

For each text that you read, you must include the source.

You must write a summary and reaction to the text with specific evidence to justify your reactions. This summary and reaction should be around 100 words.

Listening options: You may listen to two songs, two pod casts or news broadcasts totaling 2.5 minutes a piece, two 'how to' videos on YouTube, or watch 30 minutes of a movie.

Each audio text must be cited.

For the songs and news broadcasts, please write a 100-word comparison and contrast of what you listened to with specific references to what was said. For news broadcasts, focus on cross-country differences (linguistic, cultural, etc.). For songs, focus on how two different artists treat the same theme (lost love, political strife, new love, happiness).

For the how to videos, write a 100-word reaction that includes your opinions and cultural observations (pronunciation, dress, style, values observed etc.) with specific references to what was said.

For the movie (or TV show), write a 100-word movie review with specific references to the audio text. Compare and contrast the culture represented to your own. Pay close attention to the language used by speakers when doing this analysis.

Speaking option Speak in your target language for at least 30 minutes and write a reflection that answers the following questions: How did I push myself to use language (idioms, advanced structures) that was new and different to me (with examples)?; What do I still not understand about the language?; What did I learn from my speaking partner?; What are my goals for next time?

If you wish, you may use synchronous chat (texting, livemocha.com, g-chat, online gaming in the language you're learning) in lieu of speaking face-to-face.