**Written assignment: Receptive and productive skills**

**Duration: 2 hours in a single session**  
**Location:  It is done in school but assessed externally by the IBO**  
**Weighing: 20%**

**Main Goal: develop intercultural understanding through reflection on the differences and similarities between the student's own culture and the culture of Spanish speaking countries.**

**1. Culmination of an independent research on one topic.**  
**2. General task:**

* **to describe a topic.**
* **compare/contrast the topic with respect to their own culture and the Spanish culture.**
* **reflect on these similarities and differences by answering 3 guiding questions.**

**3. Teacher helps in picking the topic and title.**

**4. Student driven with teacher guidance.**  
**5. Students may begin as soon as they know their topic and title.**  
**6. sources for the investigation: any source and any language may be used as a means for the investigation.**  
**7. Written assignment must be the independent work of the student.**  
**8. Written assignment must be handwritten in Spanish during class under teacher monitoring.**  
**9.The topic must be from the themes studied in class:**  
**a. individual and society**  
**b. Leisure and work**  
**c. Urban and rural environment (check syllabus).**  
**10. The use of dictionaries and reference/resource materials may be used during the writing session.**

**Specific requirements of the written assignment**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Length** **200 - 300 words (no more, no less).**  **Important: students who write less than 200 words or more than 300 words will have 2 points deducted.** | **Sources** **2 - 4 sources (preferably in Spanish).  However, sources in any language may be used.**  **Important: the sources brought into the classroom for the writing assignment session must:**   1. **Clean** 2. **Unmarked**   **Note: Students may mark or annotate the sources during the writing assignment session.** | **Purpose of communication** **Description, comparison/contrast, reflection.** | **Structure** **The writing assignment needs to be structured as follows:**   1. **Title** 2. **Paragraph #1: description** 3. **Paragraph#2:  comparison** 4. **Paragraph # 3-5:  three reflections (one paragraph per question.**   **Note:  all the writing piece has one title, *no*subtitles or subheadings, and 5 paragraphs.** |

**Paragraphs 3-5: Reflection part of the writing task**

**Each paragraph needs to answer a *different*reflection question about the topic the student is writing.**

**Following are the (3) reflection questions:**

1. **What part of your topic surprised you? (paragraph # 3)**
2. **Why do you believe these cultural similarities or differences exist? (paragraph # 4)**
3. **What might a person from a Spanish speaking culture find different about your topic in your own culture?(paragraph # 5)**

**Formal guidelines**  
**1. Students *must*submit the following:**

* **a cover sheet completed by the students and signed by the student and the teacher.**
* **a bibliography in standard format with references to all sources in all languages.**

**2. It is *highly*recommended that quotations are included.  However, they will not be part of the overall word count (200 - 300 words).**  
**3. Quotations that are not appropriately referenced will be considered *plagiarism*.**  
**4. Source materials *may be* marked or annotated once the written assignment session starts.**  
  
**Formal requirements by the IBO**

1. **The written assignment must be written in *Spanish*.**
2. **The cover sheet is *completed*and *signed*by the student and teacher.**
3. **All extracts from the source/reference materials are *referenced correctly*.**
4. **A bibliography in*standard format* is included with references to *all*sources**