Written assignment: Receptive and productive skills

Location:  It is done at home and it is 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 limited guidance.

5. Students may begin as soon as their topic, title, and source materials have been approved.

6. Sources for the investigation: 2 – 4 sources MUST be in Spanish and the use of any additional sources in another language is optional.

7. Written assignment must be the independent work of the student.

8. Written assignment must be word processed in Spanish and done out of class.

9. The topic must be from the themes studied in class:

     a. individual and society

Personal details appearance and character

Daily routines

Relationships

Education

Food and drink

Shopping

Physical health

     b. Leisure and work

Sports

Entertainment

Holidays

Transport

Employment

Technology

     c. Urban and rural environment

Neighborhood

Town and services

Weather

Environmental concerns

Global issues

Physical geography

Specific requirements of the written assignment

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Length 200 - 350 words (no more, no less).  Important: students who write less than 200 words or more than 350 words will have 2 points deducted. | Sources 2 - 4 sources  (MUST be in Spanish).  However, any additional sources in any language is optional.   . | 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   1. Paragraph # 3-5:  three reflections (one paragraph per question.   Note:  all the writing piece has one title, ***3*** 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 and why? (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  
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.  
    
  Formal requirements by the IBO

1. The written assignment MUST be Word processed in ***Spanish***.
2. The cover sheet is ***completed***and ***signed***by the student and teacher.
3. **If you decide to use any direct quotations from the sources, these MUST be referenced properly (MLA format). Otherwise you would be involved in plagiarism. However, these direct quotations will not be part of the 200 – 350 word count.**
4. A bibliography in***standard format*** is included with references to ***all***sources

The packet that you will turn in via ManageBac on the due date of the written research is the following:

1. Essay (in Spanish and word processed)
2. Bibliography (in standard format)
3. Source materials

Structure of your essay

Title: Give your essay an appropriate title.

Description **(Include this sub-heading in Spanish)**

Paragraph # 1: Write an introduction paragraph that describes the topic you chose. This description needs to include *facts*.

Comparison/Contrast (Include this sub-heading in Spanish)

Paragraph # 2: write about the differences and similarities between your topic in your own culture and the culture of the Spanish speaking country you chose.

Reflection (Include this sub-heading in Spanish)

Paragraph # 3: What part of your topic surprised you and why? Develop your ideas.

Paragraph # 4: Why do you think these cultural differences exist? Develop your ideas.

Paragraph # 5: What might a person from a Spanish speaking culture find different about your topic in your own culture and why? Develop your ideas.