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### **Student video projects: putting knowledge into practice**

**Course:** ‘Russian 1030: Russian for Beginners’ or any other Foreign Language course

**The idea:** While teaching Russian for Beginners at Western, I realized that the video materials for the textbook didn’t correspond to the vocabulary and grammar covered in the units. So I started making my own short audio and video clips followed by questions. Because I used my students’ names and situations discussed in class, they could easily relate to the material.

Then after listening to the BBC philosophy podcast “In Our Time” where the moderator discussed certain philosophical concept with his guests I got an idea of engaging the students into recording their own dialogs based on the material covered in class. It turned out to be a fun way to practice and retain the new grammar and vocab. But what is even more important: the video evidence that after only three months of taking Russian the students were able to speak, stimulated them to keep up with the course material and learn even more.

#### **Description of the creative assignment:**

As a homework, students work in pairs to write a 2 min script of an interview using the vocabulary and grammar covered in the previous unit(s). For instance, the material from the unit “At a store” can be used in recording the *QVC* show or the unit “At home” - the Russian version of HGTV’s *House Hunters*.

Students act it out and record it using any video recording programs (Photobooth, Quick time, etc.) If time permits, editing can be done with the programs like IMovie. The students submit their files to the folder on OWL. Then the course instructor prepares a number of questions about each interview. The following week video projects are demonstrated and discussed in class. To stimulate students’ creativity this project can be turned into a competition. Small prizes may be offered.

#### **Examples:**

Russian for Beginners -

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pQCH\\_o9jWkE&index=2&list=PL1QTwxQhfvSZvyW-TNIzdAD0cpbdnjEY1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pQCH_o9jWkE&index=2&list=PL1QTwxQhfvSZvyW-TNIzdAD0cpbdnjEY1)

Intermediate Russian -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fKSUP5wdh3Q&list=PL1QTwxQhfvSbkbZTf19wKGUCeEcFGv6Xj&index=1>

#### **Learning outcomes:**

- students learn to use new vocabulary and grammar;
- students simultaneously practice speaking and listening comprehension;
- students learn from each other;

**Required time and resources:**

Homework: about an hour to write and edit a script; about an hour to record a video;

In class: watching and discussing video projects in class depends on the number of students, but most likely it'll take no less than an hour.

Students need access to any video recording program (Photobooth, Quicktime, etc.)

**Adaptation for other courses:** this project is perfectly adaptable for any foreign language course. Also, for the courses in humanities it would be interesting to create a series of video or audio podcasts where TAs would discuss lecture material with a course instructor. Based on these dialogs students would be asked questions or assigned to write a composition.