

Professional Goals

My professional goal is to build a Chinese program that is at least 80% student-centered and with high communicative output. To do so, I need to fulfill the 5 C's requirements established by ACTFL: Communication, Culture, Connection, Comparison, and Community.

For Communication, my goal is to develop students' four communication skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) through a wide range of communicative activities. This could be facilitated by using authentic materials and teaching classes using exclusively the target language to create a near-immersion learning environment. When it comes to authentic materials, my goal is to collect a pool of items that are level appropriate or age appropriate for high school students. On top of realia, I will also teach with the help of TPR and demonstration to make it much easier to convey certain ideas. The key to high communicative output is that all these activities must not be mechanic drills. An activity serves its purpose of improving students' communication skills only when meaningful and communicative answers are produced.

I will also make sure that culture is always present in my classes. To accomplish this goal, the use of authentic materials is part of the plan, but I would also organize more field trips and/or in-school culture appreciation events to raise the students' cultural awareness. Culture is an important link to accomplish Comparison since it provides a platform for students to compare their own languages and custom with. Moreover, students would start blending Chinese culture with their own living when they have acquired more cultural knowledge, for example, using chopsticks and cooking Chinese cuisine. To certain extent, culture founds the corner stone for students to live out the language as required by the Community standard. In order to accomplish Connection, my strategy is to design activities that encourage students to apply their knowledge from other subjects, for example, world history, religion, and even math.

In short, my professional goal takes ACTFL's 5C standard as a guideline. And as a result, lesson plans and activities are designed with one overall objective in mind: to boost my students' communicative output.