

PART D

Presentational Speaking: Cultural Comparison

Strategies

Cultural Comparison

- 1. Understand the format** You will be required to give an oral presentation. In your presentation, you will make a cultural comparison between your own community and a specific area of the Spanish-speaking world.
- 2. Pace yourself** You will have 4 minutes to prepare the presentation and 2 minutes to record it. Establish a process for completing the task within the time allotted by doing practice activities, and stick to your process when you take the exam.
- 3. Know the objectives** You are expected to plan and produce a presentation in which you demonstrate an understanding of target culture communities. You are expected to compare your observations of those communities with your own experiences.
- 4. Use the prompt to formulate a response** The prompt will describe the topic and give you a general framework for your presentation. Make use of the language provided in the prompt as you determine how to respond.
- 5. Jot down notes** Once you understand the prompt, jot down notes about what you will say about the target culture and your own. Quickly writing down your ideas will help you focus, make connections, and call forth new ideas. You may want to make lists or use a Venn diagram to keep your ideas organized.
- 6. Use your personal knowledge** Think about what you know about the topic from personal experience.
 - Determine how the topic relates to your own cultural experience. Write down a few ideas.
 - Determine with which area (country, region) of the Spanish-speaking world you have the greatest familiarity and how the topic relates to it. Write down a few notes.
- 7. Use your acquired knowledge** You may want to refer to knowledge you have acquired through readings, films and videos, lectures, social networks, the Internet, and other resources.

- You do not need to cite specific sources, but the information you draw upon must be accurate.
- Use knowledge of which you are certain and can recall correctly.

8. Choose your format Your presentation should have a logical and coherent structure. Decide which of the following formats you will use:

- Point-by-point comparison: Discuss one similarity and/or difference at a time and bring in examples from both the target culture and your own for each.
- Subject-by-subject comparison: Speak about one cultural experience first, using supporting details from that culture only, then speak about the other cultural experience.

9. Make an outline Once you decide how to structure your presentation, outline:

- The introduction: state your intended comparison
- The 2–3 main points comparing Spanish-speaking and home cultures
- The conclusion: wrap up the cultural comparison with an evaluative statement

10. Be specific Demonstrate knowledge of the area of the Spanish-speaking world on which you plan to focus by providing details about geographic, historical, artistic, or political aspects of the culture.

11. Compare and contrast Remember: the point of the presentation is to make a cultural comparison. Connect your ideas and your examples across the two cultures.

- Look for common aspects between the two cultures. Write them down.
- Look for differences between the two cultures. Write them down.

12. Be concise A cultural comparison should demonstrate your knowledge of the Spanish-speaking world, but does not require you to provide a great variety of information. Focus on fewer, but clearly compared or contrasted, aspects of the two cultures rather than providing extra information for each independently.

13. Strive for conclusion Your time is limited, so make sure you cover *both* cultures and bring your presentation to a logical conclusion.

14. Speak coherently Use transitional phrases and cohesive devices to add fluency to your presentation.

- Think ahead to the comparison or contrasting vocabulary you will use as you present the information.
- Words and phrases like *De otro lado*, *Por otra parte*, *También*, *Al contrario*, *Al igual que*, etc., will help you connect the information across cultures.

15. Vary your vocabulary Use a variety of words and expressions when presenting information to your class.

16. Raise your level of communication

- Concentrate on using rich vocabulary and culturally-appropriate idiomatic expressions.
- Avoid overuse of elementary, common vocabulary. "Reach outside the box" to impress the listener or scorer.
- Use a variety of structures, including compound sentences, rather than sticking to only safe, elementary structures.

17. Correct your errors If you notice you have made an error as you speak, correct it.

18. Use a loud and clear voice Make sure to always enunciate clearly, speak in an audible voice, and pronounce each word as accurately as possible.

19. Memorize the direction lines!

Directions: You will make an oral presentation on a specific topic to your class. You will have 4 minutes to read the presentation topic and prepare your presentation. Then you will have 2 minutes to record your presentation. In your presentation, compare your own community to an area of the Spanish-speaking world with which you are familiar. You should demonstrate your understanding of cultural features of the Spanish-speaking world. You should also organize your presentation clearly.

Instrucciones: Vas a dar una presentación oral a tu clase sobre un tema cultural. Vas a tener 4 minutos para leer el tema de la presentación y prepararla. Después vas a tener 2 minutos para grabar tu presentación. En tu presentación, compara tu propia comunidad con una región del mundo hispanohablante que te sea familiar. Debes demostrar tu comprensión de aspectos culturales en el mundo hispanohablante y organizar tu presentación de una manera clara.