ENGAGING STUDENTS THROUGH STATIONS IN THE WORLD LANGUAGE CLASSROOM

Andres Baracaldo, Jessica Fu and Kari Schiano
What are stations?

- Stations are learning centers located around the classroom where students spend time doing specific tasks.
- Each center has a different task or goal.
- Students may rotate through some or all of the stations during the lesson.
- Stations allow for student-centered and differentiated learning.
- Stations are a good way to engage students in cooperative learning.
Sample Lessons with Stations
Sample Lesson in French

Vocabulary Gallery Walk (French 4)

**Topic:** Environment

- Students learned new vocabulary words in preparation for taking an online test to calculate their carbon footprint.
- At each station, students deciphered words for themselves by looking at objects and pictures, and then did a quick activity to practice the words in context.
Sample Lesson in French

Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking Stations (French 2)

**Topic:** City and Country Activities, Passé Composé

Students practiced the passé composé and vocabulary for city and country activities in context by completing various cooperative activities.

- **Reading:** Work together to unscramble the stories about each person’s favorite leisure activity.
- **Writing:** Use Google Docs to collectively write a new version of the story about the city mouse and the country mouse.
- **Listening:** Listen to the song *Pour un instant* and fill in the missing lyrics. Then, identify the tone of the song, citing textual evidence.
- **Speaking:** Select one or more conversation topics to discuss. Record the group’s conversation for one topic.
Sample Lesson in French

Museum Virtual Field Trip (French 2)

**Topic:** Cultural Arts

- 5 paintings placed around the room
- 2 minutes to look at the painting and jot down thoughts
- 8 minutes to listen to information about the painting (as many times as needed) and discuss the painting with the group

**Students had a handout with questions to guide their responses:**
- What is the subject matter?
- What is the of the painting? (How do you know?)
- Why is this painting interesting, remarkable, or original?
- What is your opinion of it?
Sample Lesson in Spanish

Flipped classroom with stations

Students were assigned a reading the night prior. By doing this students can come prepared to discuss or work together instead of using valuable class time to read. Students used the reading in order to discuss, and collaborate with each other in different stations.

Topic: Las relaciones personales (Personal I.D)

Objectives: I can discuss the differences that exist across cultures. I can compare and contrast these ideas with group members.
Activities

- Writing: students were given poster paper they need to answer the question that was left for them by the previous group and create a question for the following group.
- Speaking discuss 2 out of the three conversation topics created based off the reading.
- Listening Students have a video clip on Spanish culture with handouts that provided questions for students to answer.
- https://m3a.vhlcentral.com/sections/0/activities/92491/popup?program_id=101
- Exit slip using Todays meet
Organization

While stations can be fun and engaging for the students, they may take a bit longer than expected.

- Give students time within the stations
- Plan to have 3-4 stations they may take a little longer than you expect
- Ensure the students are well informed of what you expect in each station.
- Be sure to guide students if it is needed once the activities begin.
Technology

Ensure the students walked out with a better understanding of what you had planned for them. Pose an open ended question on Today’s meet where they can post their response. This can be saved as a PDF and you can use the responses in order to check for understanding.
Sample Lesson in Chinese

The class is set up to a mini modern language lab.

The language lab is an audio or audio-visual installation used as an aid in modern language teaching.

Old language lab:
No interaction with peers
Hard to check on students
Hard to have assessments often

Modern language lab:
peers’ interaction
Teachers walk around the classroom
Constantly collecting data
Sample Lesson in Chinese

Chinese 3 Intermediate Low

**Topic:** Celebrating a birthday

**Objectives:** I can understand conversations about celebrating a birthday.
(Interpretive Listening)

**Technology:** EdPuzzle.com
Sample lesson in Chinese

There are four video clips about celebrating a birthday. Groups are located in four corners of classroom. Each corner has one video clip. Each video clip includes one activity. Students are timed and rotate through the four groups.

Final Assessment: Kahoot! --watch video clip answer questions. (Formative)
Some small things...

- Students are asked to check off the list of their responsibilities.
- They were asked to speak target language the whole time.
- Watching videos on own computers allows students to watch in their own speed and be able to go back to where they want to watch again. Help focus.
- Next task can be a writing or speaking project of retelling the story according to the four posters.
Transformation of stations.
Tips for Stations
Activities
Preparing Stations

- Think about the number of students you want at each station, how many stations/activities you will need for what you wish to do, and how long each activity will take to complete.
- Set up the room ahead of time (as much as possible): move desks, label each station, assign students to stations, arrange any materials students will need at each station, provide arrows showing where to go next.
- Students should place their belongings out of the way before beginning, and have only what they need for the lesson with them.
- Establish a routine for moving desks, assigning groups, rotating through stations, cleaning up.
Preparing Activities

- Choose activities that are simple and straightforward.
- Take a few minutes the day before to give the students an overview for the next day.
- Make the goal/requirements of each station clear to students.
- Have all handouts in clearly labeled packets for the students to take with them as they travel around the room.
Time Management

- The activities should take students the same amount of time to complete.
- Post a timer on the board so students know how much time they have at their station.
- The activities usually take longer than you think they will. That’s ok - give students time to complete everything.
- Build in time for setup and clean-up, as well as coming together for a quick discussion or closure at the end of the period.
- Don’t be afraid to stop for a Time Out for clarification or redirection if things are not going as planned.
Useful Technology

- Laptops
- Headphones
- YouTube, news websites, etc.
- EdPuzzle
- Voki
- QR codes + cell phones + headphones
- Google Docs
Links for more information about learning stations:

- [http://teamccurrenttrends.wikispaces.com/Learning+Centers](http://teamccurrenttrends.wikispaces.com/Learning+Centers)
- [http://thepositiveclassroom.org/5-tips-for-managing-learning-centers/](http://thepositiveclassroom.org/5-tips-for-managing-learning-centers/)
- [https://www.slideshare.net/ThomasMartin44/edwf5100-instructional-assignment-learningcenterstmartin](https://www.slideshare.net/ThomasMartin44/edwf5100-instructional-assignment-learningcenterstmartin)
- [https://www.thoughtco.com/how-to-set-up-classroom-learning-centers-2081841](https://www.thoughtco.com/how-to-set-up-classroom-learning-centers-2081841)
Plan your own stations lesson!