

Reading Reflection #3

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I think the focus on learning how to apply the skills taught in the classroom to real-world scenarios is the best preparation for life after school. Connecting this to the current educational landscape mentioned on page two, this is applicable to other areas of education as well. For example, in my high school, students did a project in economics that followed the finances of a real-life business. Similarly, we had an activity in Spanish class where we went to an actual Mexican restaurant and ordered in Spanish. This was a memorable experience not only because we were outside of the classroom environment, but also because it was an application of the conjugations and vocabulary we were learning in class beyond the usual report or presentation.

I related the "global competence" mentioned on page two with the "global issues" we learned about in the second week's readings. The five C's prepare students not only with the knowledge of language and culture, but also universal skills such as critical thinking through the practice of making connections and viewing from different perspectives. These are essential skills for entering the global community and interacting with people from all different backgrounds. By using those skills to participate in the global community, students have more opportunities to contribute to the solution of global issues.

In this reading, I was especially pleased to see the numbers that prove these standards are successful. At the beginning of the body content on page two, I found the 15+ years of implementation very significant to the credibility of these standards. The large percent of positive survey responses at the end of page two for the standards revisions also contribute toward my personal approval. Without these two factors verifying the success of the five C's standards, it would be more difficult to support.

I also found the "appropriate expectations for language learners" and "clear direction for language educators and learners" as the survey response criteria on page two very interesting. It reminded me of our lessons in service learning. I originally thought that our task was to make the expectations clear for the kids at our service site, but I've learned that it's equally important to set a clear direction for ourselves as the teachers as well. I think this connects with the third service learning outcome, "Community and Social Justice," because by setting clear guidelines for both the teachers and students, we ensure that everyone has the best chance to understand and learn.