Senior Project Proposal

Project Proposal

Research Question
How can I make learning another language more readily available to people who can't afford it?

What is the need in the community?
There aren't enough free resources for people to learn a second language on their own. You might be able to pay five dollars for an app, but they're only apps. You can pay $300 or more for some software, but a lot of the people I know can't do that. The apps that are free are only very basic. To continue learning, you have to invest more than I think is reasonable.

Description of Project
For my project, I will create a website to teach people Japanese. Under the "Language" tab, I will have the syllabaries of katakana and hiragana, and short videos of how to write and pronounce each one. I will also have lists of vocabulary and phrases with the English word, Romanization, and the Japanese spelling. Finally, under the "Language" tab, I'll have grammar and a mass video of how to do it. Then, under the "Culture" tab, I will have information about food, money, holidays, body gestures, and anime. Finally, I'll have a contact page so people can ask questions, get advice, and give me feedback.

To advertise the website, I'll pass out flyers at Anime Boston. Then, I'll edit my search engine optimization (SEO) words to make the best use of the words. I also want to give a presentation to the school on how to use the website, just in case anyone was too embarrassed to take the class, if they want more help, or even if they're just curious.

Name of the Off-Site Coach/Possible Organization
Nahoko Collis Sensei might be my outside coach but I never officially asked her. I might also look at the Japanese teacher at Classical to see if I can shadow him/her for a day to see how he/she teaches.

Signatures

Advisor:

Senior Seminar teacher:

Administrator:

Blackstone Coach:

Student:

Habits of Mind

Zest
My project connects with zest because of the videos I plan to make. I'll have to be excited so I can get the viewers excited about learning Japanese.

Self-Advocacy
My project allows me to get a presence on the internet and allows the visitors to take initiative and learn something on their own time.

Creativity
My project shows creativity because instead of a class at school, I'm making a website. This makes my information available everywhere. Also,

Grit
My project shows grit because I'm using my knowledge of how I learned a language and expanding on it to make videos, vocabulary lists, and information sheets. It's a lot of work, especially the videos, but I can't give up.

Community Engagement
My project shows community engagement because I'm giving the online community a new resource to learn Japanese. I'm opening up my email to them so they can ask questions, too.

Optimism
My project shows optimism because even though my research showed that children can learn a second language best, I'm aiming the website at people already out of the critical period. I have hope for them!

Timeline

March 7
Continue adding vocabulary, phrases, grammar

Start designing flyer

March 14
Continue adding vocabulary, phrases, grammar

Get flyer edited

March 21
Continue adding vocabulary, phrases, grammar

Get flyer rechecked

Print flyer at school on nice paper

March 28
Advertise at Anime Boston

Continue adding vocabulary, phrases, grammar

Contact Morimura Sensei again

April 4
Continue adding vocabulary, phrases, grammar

Research for food & money

Research for holidays & body gestures

Research paper

Add information to tabs

April 11
Continue adding vocabulary, phrases, grammar

Research paper John corrections, give to Stacy

Research for anime & anything left over from previous weeks

Add remaining information to website

Email Morimura Sensei

Video formula/script

Coach meeting

April 18

Continue adding vocabulary, phrases, grammar

Research for anime & anything left over from previous weeks

Add remaining information to website

Finish adding content to "Culture" tab

May 2

Continue adding vocabulary, phrases, grammar

"About" tab

Create videos for Hiragana

Create videos for Katakana

May 9

Finish adding vocabulary, phrases, and grammar

Quick presentation at school, post flyers

Mass grammar video if time

Website completed, finalize everything

List of Materials and Funds

Computer & internet to create website

Nice paper to print copies of flyer

Research Sources and Experts

Nahoko Collis

Japanese Pod 101

Mirai Japanese (app)

Word Up Japanese (app)

Tae Kim's Guide to Learning Japanese (app)

Mimi Morimura (Japanese teacher at Classical)