

EPORTFOLIO AT THE BEGINNERS AND THE INTERMEDIATE LANGUAGE LEVELS (H)

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Online Student Projects, also known as ePortfolios, are language instruction projects developed with the use of technology in which cultural components are included with the acquisition of the language skills. The use of technology in these projects enhances cultural and linguistic learning by integrating Internet-based research and the creation of a webpage in the target language. Students at the Beginners stage (first semester) were asked to introduce themselves and where they live. They were asked to use as much vocabulary and sentence structures as they learned in class. They wrote the text (280 words approximately), recorded it, added photos and captions and displayed their work on the web. The audio files were saved in rm format by RealProducer. Students at the Intermediate level chose a personality, a place or an issue related to current affairs. They had to research the topic, read about it and write a text that would be representative of their language level and skills, add pictures and record themselves. They learned how to create a webpage and displayed their work on the web. Students at the Intermediate level chose to research and write about Eli Cohen, The Minorities in Israel, and The Sticker Song. Samples of the student's projects will be presented. The works indicate the acquisition of the language and the culture at each level. Beginners and intermediate under <http://lang.rice.edu/tbaron/students>' projects can be seen on the course webpage at Projects - ePortfolio. The students were given instructions and deadlines at the beginning of the semester. They were enthusiastic and proud to demonstrate their language achievements on the web, mailed the links to their families and friends and involved them in their pursuit of the Hebrew language. They viewed and discussed each other's projects in class. Based on their comments, it was an exciting and successful learning experience.