Using Facebook to Bring Together Students in the US and in Lebanon

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Why Lebanon? A Project Overview

- LINCC program at NCC
- AKU/ITK partners in Lebanon
  http://www.aku.edu.lb/
- Grant-funded project (BMENA>>>USAID>>>HED>>ACE)
- SUNY COIL
Project Overview, continued

❖ Need for and focus on global awareness
❖ Students’ savvy with social media + growing use of social media in education
❖ Students’ need to know how to use academic English in social media environments to practice for life outside the classroom
❖ Language practice for English language learners
  Selfies—https://www.facebook.com/groups/563434523756953/
  https://www.facebook.com/groups/991365460888946/

Tasks

“21st-century pen pals”
Project Timeline

**Week 1**—Post Group Selfie AND Song-video Introduction for individual students within groups (formal activities are done in lab. Others can comment informally during remainder of the week)

**Week 2**—Post Group Selfie AND respond to your partner (unless you haven’t already); Cultural question in groups (post) Don’t post answer yet. Ss create questions in classroom.

**Week 3**—Group Selfie AND check responses and post answers

**Week 4**—Group Selfie AND holiday project—describe a holiday from your religion/culture/home country. Find a photo that represents part of your holiday and post/link it with your description.. Each student does this individually.

**Week 5**—Collaborative Project—Create a new holiday. That means, use something from each person’s holiday, and create a new holiday. Give it a name. What food do people have? What time of year do you celebrate this holiday? What is the purpose of this holiday?
Issues to be Aware of

❖ Communications
❖ Flexibility
❖ Scheduling and Calendars
❖ Technological constraints
Finally, F2F: Travel to Beirut

Here is a sample cultural question (created by Rita Moukheiber, Beirut)

What is the signature Lebanese dish?

a: Moujaddara
b: Eclair
c: Tabbouleh
And Away We Go!
Q&A

Thank you for coming!

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