STARTALK
Principles for Effective Teaching & Learning

Integrating Culture, Content, and Language

Teachers use units and design lessons that are culturally rich and cognitively engaging, creating a context in which learners use their language skills to learn more about the target culture(s) and the world they live in. Learners build, reinforce, and expand their knowledge of other disciplines and the world while using the target language. Learners interact frequently with authentic resources, exploring the products, practices, and perspectives of the target culture(s). They have opportunities to communicate and interact appropriately with others who speak the target language.

Learner Experiences & Teacher Responsibilities

The identified learner experiences are possible because of the work done by the teacher. The corresponding teacher responsibilities provide guidance for the teacher by indicating key criteria from the Teacher Effectiveness for Language Learning (TELL) Framework.

- **Learners experience an environment that accurately reflects the target language and culture in ways that support the program can-do statements.**
  The teacher creates a learning environment that promotes intercultural thinking. *TELL Environment: EN5*

- **Learners engage in activities that prepare them to use their language skills and cultural understanding in order to interact appropriately in a cultural context other than their own.**
  The teacher plans opportunities for students to investigate cultural products, practices, and perspectives in order to interact appropriately with others. *TELL Planning: PL1.d*

- **Learners engage in activities that prepare them to investigate the products and practices of a culture, gaining an understanding of perspectives while using the target language.**
  The teacher facilitates activities that allow students to produce language in order to interact with language learners or other speakers of the target language. *TELL: Learning Experience: LE6.d*

- **Learners engage in activities that prepare them to explore other disciplines and make real-world connections while using the target language.**
  The teacher uses units that allow students to build, reinforce, and expand their knowledge of other disciplines. *TELL Planning: PL1.e*

Explore the STARTALK Principles in action:
startalk.umd.edu/public/principles