

Title:**Mi idioma, mi cultura: Understanding Linguistic Oppression and Promoting Cultural Pride****Abstract:**

"Mi idioma, mi cultura": a Heritage Spanish unit addressing language loss and cultural identity. This presentation unveils a unit tailored for suburban Chicago students, tackling language loss and Hispanic diaspora challenges. Through diverse methodologies, students explore historical and contemporary issues, fostering empathy and advocacy for linguistic diversity. Real-life narratives, interactive activities, and student-driven solutions intertwine to nurture cultural pride and preservation.

Description:

"Mi idioma, mi cultura" is a Heritage Spanish unit designed to engage students of Chicago's suburbs in a profound exploration of the themes of language loss, linguistic oppression, and the cultivation of cultural pride within the context of the Hispanic diaspora: a dire need in suburban communities where English acquisition is often the sole focus of bilingual programs. The presentation will delve into the unit's objectives, methodologies, and outcomes, highlighting its potential to foster meaningful connections between students, their heritage, and broader societal issues.

The primary goal of the "Mi idioma, mi cultura" unit is to empower students with an awareness of the historical and contemporary challenges surrounding heritage language preservation. By studying real-life narratives of language loss due to linguistic oppression in educational settings, students will gain insights into the profound impact of these practices on individuals and communities. Through this exploration, we aim to inspire empathy, critical thinking, and a sense of responsibility in students, fostering their role as advocates for linguistic diversity.

The unit employs a multifaceted approach that combines authentic texts, historical resources and interactive activities. Students will engage in reflective writing, group discussions, and creative projects that encourage them to connect the stories of the past to their own experiences.

By the end of the unit, students will exhibit a deeper appreciation for the complexities of language preservation and the significance of cultural identity. They will not only understand oppression in a historical context, but they will delve into a project where they analyze their current surroundings and offer solutions to center their cultural backgrounds in our school context, actively engaging in initiatives to celebrate and protect their linguistic and cultural roots.

Learning Objectives:

1. Understand the historical and contemporary challenges in linguistic oppression and language loss in educational settings in the US and in other countries
2. Cultivate a sense of responsibility and advocacy among teachers to empower students to become advocates for linguistic diversity.
3. Learn ways to engage students in reflective writing, group discussions, and creative projects that facilitate the connection between historical narratives of language loss and students' own heritage experiences.

Format

Interactive Workshop

Key words: linguistic oppression, chicano/a/e/x, cultural pride, language loss