



AUAP CWU NEWSLETTER

Report #3 ~ November 2023



November Topics & Skills

American Studies

- World War 1/Consumerism
- Roaring 20s
- World War 2/Great Depression
- Cold War
- Conformity/Rebellion/1950s
- Discussion of American culture with CWU students

Functions of English

- Ordering at a restaurant
- Idioms & Slang
- Travel Language and preparation: Vocab, airport, hotel, and safety
- US holiday discussion: Veteran's Day & Thanksgiving

Career Development

- Connecting personal skills and experiences to job descriptions
- Interview AUAP & CWU students about work culture
- Discussion with CWU students about changes in work since the pandemic

TOEIC

- Suffixes
- Listening practice - Parts 1 & 2
- Part 5 tips & strategies
- Adjectives and adverbs
- Practice TOEIC

Integrated English Skills

- Writing and summarizing interviews for Discovery Project
- Global Service Learning activity #2
- DP mini presentation and Q&A

Monthly Class Summary

Students are busy and having fun in classes. It's clear to see the improvement in confidence and English ability in the students.

IES: Students continued their cycle-long Discovery Project (DP), an interview-based project that is a cultural comparison of topics students chose. This month, students finished interviewing a minimum of 8 AUAP students and 8 CWU students, and many elected to conduct additional interviews. Having drafted their DP Introduction last month, students continued their research report by typing three paragraphs to summarize their interview findings, a Source List based on their 16 interviews, a Glossary with a minimum of 5 new vocabulary words they learned throughout their interviews, and a Data Page of their most interesting interview results using charts or graphs. At the end of term 1, students gave a short DP PowerPoint presentation including their main topic, two subtopics, detailed analysis of one of their 6 DP questions and results, 1-2 new key vocabulary words, and two discussion questions. CWU students taking a Public Speaking class, participated as audience members, joined in a brief discussion following each presentation, had a chance to ask questions, and provided presenters with feedback. The DP is a great way for students to improve their listening, speaking, writing, and critical thinking skills.

CD: Mock Job Interviews: The final exam in CD class was the mock job interviews. Students first brainstormed important skills, experiences, duties, and interview questions for specific jobs. They then learned about the process, received job role information, and classroom volunteers helped clarify the roles as well as how to participate in the activity. The focus of the mock job interviews was on students remaining positive, having confidence, elaborating, and selling themselves to potential employers. During the mock job interviews, students role-played in four interviews: once as an interviewer, once as an observer who took notes and helped make the hiring decision, and twice as an interviewee making use of the best skills, experiences, and personal qualities on their role sheet. They later debriefed the mock job interviews in class.



DAVE Classes

FUNCTIONS - Students had a "City Travel" group research presentation where each group focused on a different popular U.S. or Canadian travel destination. Cities included Seattle, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Seattle, New York City, and Vancouver (Canada). Students' PowerPoints focused on information such as where the city is located and how to reach this city from Ellensburg, 2 types of public transportation, 3 sightseeing attractions, information about at least 1 hotel and 1 hostel, 3 additional facts, and a final slide with discussion questions.

FUNCTIONS- Students joined with a CWU Intercultural Communications class where they shared similar and different gestures used in American and Japanese cultures. The CWU Communications professor also provided a short lesson in non-verbal communication.

TOEIC- Students participated in a unique CWU Communications class where, in groups with CWU students, they discussed the difference in implicit (nonverbal) and explicit (verbal, direct) communication styles as well as the tendency to rely on inferences during communication. The concept of inferences was further reiterated in TOEIC class as students deepened their knowledge of inferences used in both the listening and reading parts of the TOEIC test.

IES- IES class combined with a CWU Education class two times. Each time, half of the class hour was devoted to AUAP students conducting DP interviews with American peers while the other half of the class period involved the CWU students teaching and debriefing a short literacy activity with AUAP students.

CWU Student For A Day - Early this month, all students participated in the "CWU Student for a Day" activity. Students attended 1-3 CWU classes with a CWU peer as well as participate in a one-hour social activity with their CWU friend to more fully experience student life in America. This was an excellent chance for students to gain new perspectives about student life, meet new people, and be more engaged in their own AUAP classes. In a reflection assignment after the activity, students wrote about similarities and differences between American and Japanese classes.

Central Class Experience - CCE students continued to go to their unique CWU class, set goals for themselves, and achieve those goals. They met in person and also did an online discussion board to share their experiences and give each other encouragement. One AUAP student taking a Film and Theater class, voluntarily participated in a group homework assignment and helped present his work to the class. Another AUAP student taking a Psychology class, continued regularly attending her class and making a lot of meaningful connections to her class in Japan and her life.

"I was very nervous during the mock job interview. It's because it's difficult for me to explain myself and answer questions in English. However, I could answer calmly and with increasing frequency. I understood my skills, qualifications, and weakness. I could explain about myself by understanding deeply about myself."

"I learned how to highlight my skills and experiences, how to explain myself, how to draw out the skills and experiences of others, how to listen carefully, how to view interviews objectively, and how to choose good interview questions."





Student Services

AUAP students have had another active month. Students have passed the halfway point and have been trying their best to spend time with their Campus and Community Friends, CWU students, and try "English Only Days."

AUAP Friends Club - Each week AUAP and CWU students join club meetings and plan fun activities to do together. Activities have included a movie night, playing board games, teaching Japanese calligraphy, making masks, and having conversation together.

Community Friend Program: About a half of AUAP students are participating in the program and were matched with their local family. Some got invited to the family's house and had dinner together, some went out for coffee and went to a local restaurants. Everyone is enjoying spending time with community friends and doing something outside of the campus.

Campus Friend Program: About a half of AUAP students are participating in the program and were matched with their CWU student. A reception with ice breakers was held to help pairs connect and get to know each other. Students are now encouraged to meet their partners once a week.

International Education Week: Students participated in a variety of events to celebrate the national week dedicated to International Education. The week's festivities kicked off with the CWU Parade of Flags to recognize the diversity of students at CWU. Students also participated in events with other international students such as Sport Day, International student social, and International Cafe.

Thanksgiving Feast: Some students joined Thanksgiving dinner provided by one of the dining services on campus. Food included some favorites such as turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, and pumpkin pie. Students were also invited to a Thanksgiving feast at friend's house. They've tried new food and enjoyed the night celebrating with their friends.





Volunteering

Another busy month for AUAP students with lots of options for volunteering. Students engaged in the community through:

Boo Central - On Halloween evening, over 300 small kids came to CWU to trick or treat in the SURC Ballroom where CWU clubs and organizations made booths for kids to come play at and get candies. Some AUAP students worked at the AUAP Friends club booth, which featured a beanbag toss, fishing for candy, and the Japanese game, "Fukuwarai".

International Cafe - There were 2 cafes in November, and some AUAP students joined CWU and other international students for the fun. The first one was organized by Student Leadership, Involvement, & Community Engagement (SLICE). They had a discussion game with Fall themes based on "Four Square" game. It was a fun engaging cafe for students! The second one was to celebrate International Education Week, and the themed was "Travel Around the World." International students from various countries hosted tables and taught games and culture from their home countries.

Helping Anthropology students - There was an opportunity to meet with Anthropology major students and teach them all about Japan and Japanese customs that they should be aware of while visiting Japan. Both AUAP and CWU students had great time exchanging cultural differences along with lots of useful suggestions and recommendations!



Soccer Club - 3 AUAP students have joined the CWU soccer club and been active since the beginning. They finished the season by winning the last home game at CWU! They traveled almost every weekends with the team.



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