

WSP CLASSES

Students have settled into their classes and are making great progress in building their English skills and improving their confidence!

Class highlights

Career Skills

- Vocabulary building
- Resume review
- Review videos of job interviews
- Interacting with WWU-student volunteers

English

Communication Skills

- Fluency activities
- Practice using questions
- Interacting with WWU-student volunteers
- Body language and culture

Beautiful Bellingham

- Boulevard Park visit
- Fairhaven visit
- Interacting with WWU-student volunteers
- Spark Museum

WSP Experience Class

- Safety
- Transportation & travel policy
- Using meal plans wisely
- Staying healthy
- Activities to join on campus

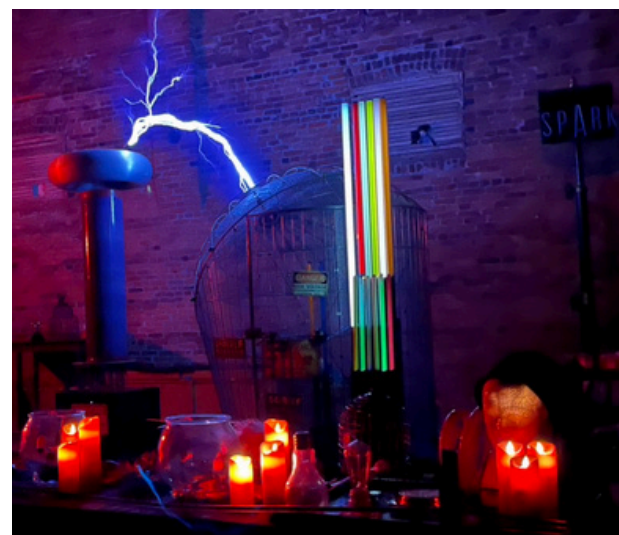
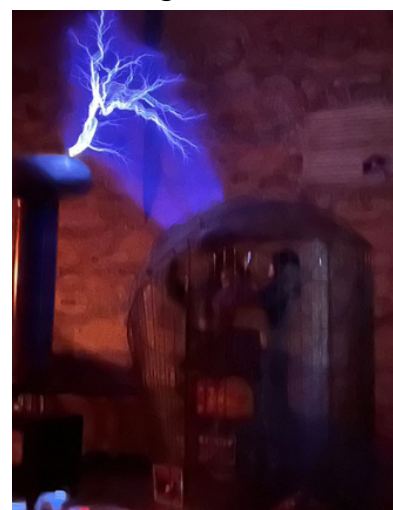
- **Career Skills:** This week students got more chances to interact with WWU student volunteers by discussing topics related to jobs and careers. In one small group activity, students went through a list of different jobs with a WWU student. The purpose of the activity was to build vocabulary related to jobs and careers and also to get students to think about careers that they might be interested in pursuing. Students also learned the terms "skill set," "hard skills," and "people skills" from a PowerPoint presentation prepared by the WWU Career Services Center. They used these terms to discuss skills that they have and then to think about careers in which those skills might be useful. They also finished watching the interview with the executive assistant and listened to more speeches by WWU student volunteers about jobs they've had. In addition, they studied an actual resume made by a WWU employee.



Events and Activities

- Weight lifting competition
- Basketball
- Valentine's Day Party
- Neko Cafe
- Seattle trip
- Mt. Baker Ski Area trip

- **English Communication Skills:** This week was the students' first full week of classes. The students started week two with icebreakers called "Sticky Stations" which helped them get to know each other better and reflect on some of the reasons they embarked on their study abroad. The students were also introduced to Mood Meters, which they will use every morning of class to help connect with social and emotional learning. It is also an effective tool to help improve vocabulary. The lessons also included non-verbal body language activities aimed to help improve their communication skills in the United States. This was a particularly dynamic and engaging lesson working with WWU student volunteers in class. They also practiced their ability to create, ask, and answer open-ended and personalized questions. This skill will be useful when the students have conversations at their upcoming high school and Japanese language classroom exchanges. Finally, Friday was Valentine's Day, and the students learned about the cultural events surrounding Valentine's Day in America. We watched a video, played some interactive games, and created Valentine Day cards for each other complete with "clever compliments," linguistic idioms, and puns in English.



- **Beautiful Bellingham:** On Wednesday, our Beautiful Bellingham field trip this week was to Bellingham's Fairhaven District. Students walked along Bellingham's iconic Taylor Dock, browsed through the Village Book store, and enjoyed snacks at local cafés. The students helped navigate the bus routes in and around the Bellingham area, utilizing both the Whatcom Transit Authority's website and real-time app. They examined local maps of Bellingham, Washington State, and other parts of North America, learning about the geography of this beautiful part of the Pacific Northwest. The students also watched videos on experiences and outdoor adventures in Bellingham, as well as the art and cultural events held throughout Whatcom County. They completed a homework assignment of exploring Bellingham with friends and American roommates and reported back to the class on their activities. The students demonstrated the knowledge and training gained during orientation week by uploading their homework assignment and pictures to Western's Learning Management System called Canvas.



- **Experience Class:** Students have been learning more about Western and how to get around the area on public transportation. This is important, as the students are already planning to travel on the weekends. We told them that time flies in WSP so planning ahead is important. Another topic we focused on was wellness as a whole, not just physical health. We talked about cultural adjustment and as well as ways to get involved in activities in and around campus.

