Authentic Resources

What Are They and How Do Language Teachers Use Them Effectively?

Presented by Tonja Byrom for the National Resource Center for Asian Languages (NRCAL)
Authentic Resources Discussion

1. How do you define authentic materials?

2. Do you use them with your students? If so, how do you use them?
Authentic Materials Are...

“...THOSE WRITTEN AND ORAL COMMUNICATIONS PRODUCED BY MEMBERS OF A LANGUAGE AND CULTURE GROUP FOR MEMBERS OF THE SAME LANGUAGE AND CULTURE GROUP”

(GALLOWAY, 1998, P. 133)

- REALIA
- MAGAZINES AND NEWSPAPER ARTICLES
- LITERARY EXCERPTS AND POEMS
- AUDIO RECORDING, VIDEO TAPES, AND SATELLITE BROADCAST

BENEFITS:
STUDENTS SEE AND HEAR REAL LANGUAGE THAT SERVES A PURPOSE AND IS RICH IN CULTURAL CONTENT.

Svetlana Lazarova - LA STARS
Effective Language Teachers Consider...

**WHOM DO I TEACH?** (WHO ARE YOUR STUDENTS AND WHY DO THEY TAKE YOUR SUBJECT?)

**WHAT DO I TEACH?** (WITH WHAT DO YOU FILL UP YOUR CLASS TIME?)

**WHY DO I TEACH?** (FOR WHAT PURPOSES DO YOU TEACH THE CONTENT OF YOUR LESSONS?)

**HOW DO I TEACH?** (WHAT STUDENT ACTIVITIES DRIVE L2 LEARNING IN YOUR CLASSROOM?)

**WITH WHAT MATERIALS DO I TEACH?**
**Authentic Resources: What do they look like in practice?**

| For the Teacher | For the Student |
## Authentic Resources: What Do They Look Like in Practice?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For the Teacher</th>
<th>For the Student</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sets appropriate authentic texts</td>
<td>• INTERPRETATION of content, culture, and language</td>
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<td>Establishes purposeful connection among INTERPRETIVE, INTERPERSONAL, and PRESENTATIONAL activities</td>
<td>○ Listen</td>
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<td>Facilitates interpretation of authentic materials</td>
<td>○ View</td>
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<td>Checks for understanding</td>
<td>○ Read</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Demonstrate interpretation and comprehension in measurable performance</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• NEGOTIATE meaning</td>
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Choosing Authentic Resources

Language
Cultural Knowledge
Content Knowledge
Age
Stage (Proficiency Level)
YouTryIt!

In groups of 3 - 4:

Identify one authentic resource appropriate for your students

Describe how you use it with your students

Connect to language, cultural knowledge, content knowledge, age, and stage or proficiency level
Authentic Resource Ideas from Today’s Participants

● Train Schedules
● Menu for Target Language Country
  ○ Level 1: likes/dislikes
  ○ Level 3: pretend one is worker, one is customer, size, measurements, yen/dollar
● Map of Target Language Country
  ○ give directions using the landmarks as culture
● Weather Reports
  ○ View target language weather reports to learn about weather, format
  ○ celsius/fahrenheit, month/day format
More Authentic Resource Ideas from Today’s Participants

- Bring in Family Members
  - greetings, respect
- Cookbooks
  - identify foods
  - healthy option
  - create recipes
- Local Target Language Grocery Stores
  - walking field trip
  - virtual field trip
  - scavenger hunts