

Naomi Wahls
Mark Brierley and Dr. Yumiko Matsunaga

Virtual International Exchange (VIE) CU Boulder and Shinshu University Japan

Participants:

Japan (Shinshu University) and U.S. (CU Boulder's Asian Studies)
Dr. Yumiko Matsunaga - CU Boulder Japanese Studies
Mark Brierley - Shinshu University in Japan

Mark Brierley created the Moodle space for the VIE. We used Moodle because Shinshu University uses Moodle and students in Japan were joining the VIE in the first 2 weeks of their semester, which did not give them time to learn a new tool.
Dr. Yumiko Matsunaga selected content for the VIE to be added to Moodle.

Spring 2017 Project:

Students were added to Moodle in April:

- Week 1 – Introductions
- Week 2 – Articles Video discussions

Goal:

Create a connection between Shinshu University and CU virtually through VIEs.

Student Objectives:

- I can discuss topics in English with non-native English speakers (CU students) / with native English speakers (Shinsu students)
- I can discuss topics in Japanese with non-native Japanese speakers (CU students) / with native Japanese speakers (Shinsu students)
- I can introduce myself to native speakers in their native language

Results:

- Question 1: Similarities with their foreign peers.
Results: before interaction 3.8 (*Peru & Mexico 2.9*)
- Question 2: More differences before and after study.
Results: before 4.2 (*Peru 4.2, Mexico 3.8*)
- Question 3: Study expected to rate their intercultural competency. Although the term “competency” was not defined, the students reported higher intercultural competency.
Results: before interaction 2.4 (*Peru 3.2, Mexico 2.7*)
- Question 4: Mutual foreign peer intercultural competency.
Results: before interaction 3.6 (*Peru 3.5, Mexico 2.8*)

Future expectations:

A 3-8 week exchange for the fall is currently being planned. We plan to incorporate VoiceThread to create a more asynchronous engaging experience due to the time zone difference instead of the personal interviews in Skype or Zoom.