

# SPA 101M

## extra credit essay



1. What techniques do you use to study? Do you use any technique presented in the videos you watched in week 1?
2. What helps you during class?
3. What do you do to improve your pronunciation?
4. What do you do to memorize vocabulary?
5. What is the most difficult thing about the Spanish language in your opinion?
6. How has it be taking an online Language Course experience so far?

"I use homemade flashcards to help memorize basic Spanish words. I attempted to use a few apps to help with grammar, but haven't found anything that is 100% effective. I use a few videos from week one to remind be of basic rules, but majority of the things I'm struggling with are going to just take time and practice.

2. Smaller class sizes are helpful to ensure everyone gets an opportunity to practice their pronunciation. I get very anxious on video, so often times I find myself messing up on simple items when my camera is on.

3. Pronunciation is one of the hardest things for me to fully comprehend. I am saying words out-loud into my Spanish translation app. If it can't understand me, I know I am mispronouncing it, so I have it correct me.

4. flash cards and repeating sentences help me to get a good grasp on vocabulary words.

5. The most difficult thing about Spanish is figuring out the correct tense. (tiene, tienen, tienes, etc...) I am REALLY struggling with making sure I'm using the correct word. AND masculine and feminine words too.

6. So far, I've really enjoyed the flexibility of the class, but I wish I could take full advantage of the opportunity. I don't think I'm able to give my best at this time and it's causing me to fall behind. I am usually very "type A" personality, so I like to work ahead and study before lecture. I am really trying to focus in these final weeks and give it 110%"

"I just review the course material a lot. The videos do help out quite a bit, because you get to hear the words. During class I like when people ask questions because most of the time someone else wants to ask the question, but is kinda shy. Plus we get to hear how the words are pronounced. Most difficult part of the Spanish language is learning the verbs. I usually understand what the words mean but have a real hard time putting everything together. So far I really like the online language course. Since class has started I have been in 6 different states and had to do homework or online class from multiple areas. We go on vacation towards the end of class and I will be able to complete my assignments from Hawaii. Biggest bonus of this class is how the pace is setup. Don't feel overwhelmed.  
Gracias, "

"Let me start by saying I am enjoying this class. Our instructor, Ms. Raquel Poteet is fantastic. Her enthusiasm is infectious and her ability to switch between Spanish and English is quite impressive. I try to get the homework for the week done early so I can practice what we are learning throughout the week. I try to translate my thoughts into Spanish whatever they may be. When I visit with my wife or friends I try to use the Spanish I have learned so far. It seems fun for all of us. During class I listen closely to the instructor and the other students. Simply paying attention can help a lot with pronunciation. Also, Spanish is great in that all letter and letter combinations are pronounced the same no matter what the word is. Practicing the sounds and breaking a word down to its syllables makes pronunciation easier. Memorizing vocabulary for me is simply using it as much as possible. Read it, sound it out, say it out loud, write it down and create a mental picture of what it means. Then repeat as many times as possible. The most difficult thing for me is rolling my 'r' and 'rr' sounds. My tongue isn't trained to do that very well. Our instructor is making this a very fun class."

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Valencia. The Mediterranean coast is the most densely inhabited area in Spain.



Machu-Picchu - Peru

*"Hola!*

*This assignment didn't specify if it needed to be written in Spanish or not so I am hoping that it is not required because I definitely do not have all of these big words memorized in Spanish yet. I find that for my extremely busy schedule that clicking play on a YouTube video that teaches Spanish and then listening to it while I drive to and from work is one of the most effective ways for me to learn. The online face to face class with Mrs. P is very effective as she is immediately able to tell how far each of us has progressed with our learning. I wish that I could have more practice and repetition with people in person to learn even quicker but I only have a couple Spanish speaking friends. The most difficult thing that I can think of about the Spanish language is when you are trying to teach yourself words by using google translate or some other program and it does not recognize the difference between "los" and "las" it is very difficult to remind yourself and you have to go back into the canvas modules to find the correct week where we learned the difference. The online class has been really great, Having flexibility to complete homework during the week whenever I can squeeze it in has been awesome. I am really glad that KCC has this program."*

*"I started Spanish this term and made flash card for both myself and my office-mate to practice. That didn't work well because I would have to look through them all when I was stuck. I enjoyed watching the YouTube videos and I believe that they are most helpful. Pronunciation is very difficult for me because I over think it. I have been trying to re-watch the videos many times, however I am still struggling with memorization of some things. I am a very nervous person so although I try to practice with my children I stumble when I am put on the spot, so the live classes are hard for me. even though I say the term over and over again, and as soon as it is my turn I freeze and forget what I am saying. I have a much easier time practicing with my children. My 4 year old grandson is my partner when it comes to repeating things. I have enjoyed the class so far, but I believe that it will take me a lot more practice to be conversational with it come to Spanish."*

2

*"With vocabulary I try to use flash cards as often as I can as there is a LOT of words to memorize. As far pronunciation, mastering or at least being comfortable with letter sounds early on helps exponentially. if I'm not sure how to pronounce a word, I'll try to find a video that teaches its pronunciation or find a native speaker and run by them. The most difficult part of Spanish right now is memorizing if a word is masculine and feminine. It's a big contrast to English and is going to take time to master. I would prefer to take a face to face with a language class, except that is not possible for me. However, this course is an excellent alternative especially with the weekly meetings."*



Chile

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*"I am mostly learning through repetition. So I watch the videos 2 to 3 times and practice the assignments 2 to 3 times as well. I find that this is the best way for my slow brain to process and correlate information. During class I like to hear and see the visual aids as well as having them explained slow an multiple times. Throughout class I have been working full time at JW walker Farms and I practice with my employees in the plant, they help understand pronunciation as well as help me practice. I have a very long way to go on proper pronunciation. When I memorize I write down the word and the meaning on opposite sides of the page and I fold the page in half-length wise ."*

*"While I spend a lot of time trying to assimilate the proper vocabulary and pronunciation I still find myself struggling to memorize the words. I like to use the Duo Lingo app and have found it helpful, I also look at all of the resources that are available to us each week during the class and have found that having the live meetings is very beneficial even though I am very cautious due to the fact that I'm afraid to make a mistake in front of other people. I have also learned that trying to carry on a conversation with a Spanish speaking individual is also helpful as they can help with pronunciation and vocabulary as well. I actually feel more confident and less frazzled about taking this course online as there are a lot less people to see me mess up, which is one of my largest fears about speaking in front of others."*

*"The main way I study is simply by taking notes during each class, and by studying those notes when I forget something. Taking notes during each class really helps me retain the information that I learn. Notes help me organize the material for my own use, and give me something to jog my memory later on. I practice my pronunciation by listening to the way my professor pronounces the words as well as the way the instructors in the videos pronounce the words. I then repeat the words to myself until I can clearly and correctly pronounce them. I memorize vocabulary by taking notes of all the vocabulary words and by visualizing the object that the word describes as I write and say it. In my opinion, the most difficult thing about the Spanish language is learning to say the words, especially the ones with "rr," clearly. So far I have enjoyed my experience learning Spanish online through KCC. I feel that I am improving my skills each week."*

3

*"This is the first time I have taken an online class to learn a new language. It has been kind of difficult but I'm getting the hang of it. It helps to take notes and to have previous notes taken, in front of you when doing the group chats. To help study, I make flash cards, watch the videos provided, and take notes. Some words are hard to pronounce and I think all you can do is listen to how they are pronounced and practice them more. I believe the most difficult thing about the Spanish language is the placement and structure of sentences and the pronunciation of some words."*



*"Hola. Prior to the start of this course, I have never really attempted an online, or DE course, of really any kind. Years ago, I did attempt one mail-in course on water quality out of University of California at Davis, but failed miserably at it as I could not maintain any attention span - interest, to/in a mail-in course. In addition, Canvas is new to me. So, to respond to question number 6 first, I am not in the least impressed with Canvas, not at all. However, that being said, the instructor has gone out of her way, above and beyond, to be courteous, professional, and available to us as students. I have had trouble registering for our face to face sessions, and simply in finding our weekly assignments, but she has been very helpful, each time. So, in summation, Mrs. Poteet has made this course both doable, and successful, not Canvas. Canvas is difficult, very cumbersome, and the sheer immense, overwhelming, obtuse volume of email is to say the least outrageous, something I do not believe our instructor has any control over, but Canvas needs to be slammed on.*

*Now then, to reply to question number one. I have been finding more and more children's YouTube to help me "get it", learn it, and then say it. I also have to take my own notes, in my own journal style note-book, much more complete than perhaps other students. This may not fit with what we learned from our first Week One videos, but just saying.*

*Question two: During our "classes", I do my best to take notes, perhaps too much, but if I do not, then later on, when I attempt assignments, I just don't get it, or remember correctly. Given the opportunity, I try not to be the first to have to respond in class, as I like hearing other's making attempts. Maybe I lack the confidence, and sometimes, there are just others in our class, who seemingly already know Spanish, often apparently fluently, and they are VERY intimidating to the rest of us, like me; perhaps they should have their own meeting/class each week.*

*Question three. As with a prior question, I have no one to practice with, so I like the children's YouTube, especially the ones that are the more repetitious. I have enjoyed, and learned from the ones that sing songs, like for the colors, and the months of the year; those help me.*

*Question four is easy, just repetition, and writing. Not so much hours at a time, as to just come back off, and on, when possible. Writing does help, as does my personal journal. But I fear the day I try to speak in public, without my journal! Yikes.*

*Now then, for our final question, number 5: Without a doubt, none at all, sentence structure, the entire verb to-be thing, and now, with last week's work, all of the terms having to utilize masculine/feminine sentence structure. I do not know verb structure in English, let alone now to learn this in Spanish. The worst part being, there is no place to turn for help, support, as things like Google Translate do not work here, and trying to do Google searches for Spanish sentence structure help has thus-far failed me, (pink socks on a woman still being masculine?). I don't get it, but I am trying to memorize it instead of understanding it.*

*Thank you for the extra-credit opportunity. You are as always more than welcome to utilize my comments in any way that may benefit others. Gracia Y Buenas noches. (I could not have said, or written that before, without help as I just did.)"*