

Content Elaborations for World Languages and Cultures

Content elaborations are concepts and ideas that extend the learning standards and bring more clarity and richness to the content that students will be learning. Content elaborations are specific to proficiency levels and include ideas that will help build students' communication skills and intercultural knowledge.

There are eight global themes within the content elaborations, vertically aligned from the Novice Low to Advanced Low proficiency sublevels within Ohio's Learning Standards for World Languages and Cultures:

Beauty and Aesthetics
 Career Connections
 Communication and Media
 Contemporary Life
 Families and Communities
 Global Issues and Challenges
 Interdisciplinary/STEM
 Personal and Public Identities

These eight global themes relate closely to the Advanced Placement themes and reflect Ohio's commitment to ensuring that all students graduate from high school ready for college or career. Each theme includes topics and essential questions that require students to not only gain content knowledge but also challenge them to increase their critical thinking skills.

The content elaborations can serve as guidance for creating courses, units, assessments and lessons that are aligned from Novice Low through Advanced Low proficiency sublevels. Teachers can use the content elaborations to determine the appropriate content and skills that will fit with the theme, topic or essential question they choose. The Department does not prescribe content and all curricular decisions will be made at the local level.

Additional Support for Developing Content

The content elaborations can be used in conjunction with the progress indicators in [Ohio's Learning Standards for World Languages and Cultures](#). These sample progress indicators show what intercultural communication looks like in a classroom or real-life situation.

The progress indicators in the standards:

- Serve as optional examples of how progress could be measured across each proficiency sub-level;
- Include modern languages, classical languages, American Sign Language, and elementary, immersion and exploratory programs;
- Can be used as written, can be elaborated upon or can be used as examples of how to create personalized progress indicators; and
- Can be modified or re-ordered by topic while staying within the descriptors of each proficiency sublevel.

BEAUTY AND AESTHETICS

Instructional Resources

Standards Alignment	Topics	Essential Questions
Novice Low/Mid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical Characteristics Personality Traits Colors Dance and Music Arts and Crafts Fashion and Design 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What do I look like? What is my personality? What do my friends and family look like, and what are their personalities? How does traditional dress differ from daily wear in target cultures? How are art and music of target cultures the same or different from my culture?
Novice High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Architecture Monuments Dance Music and Art 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is my culture's concept of beauty? Is it the same or different from that of target cultures? Why are monuments important to a society? How is culture reflected in a society's products and practices?
Intermediate Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Art and Music Ideals of Beauty Literature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How can I critically reflect on art and music? How can the art of a culture be described? How is our ideal of beauty the same or different from that of target cultures? What does its literature say about a culture? How do you analyze a character in literature?
Intermediate Mid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Literature Film Art Music/Dance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does life reflect art, or does art reflect life? What makes a piece of literature "classic"? How can I critically reflect on literature and film? How do I express myself? How do music and art reflect time and place?
Intermediate High /Advanced Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ideals of Beauty Contributions to Art Literature Perspectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How are the perceptions of beauty and art established? How can I critically reflect on art, culture, nature, literature, music and film? How does a culture's historical art compare/contrast with its pop culture art? How do the arts both challenge and reflect cultural perspectives? How do a country's products and practices reflect its cultural attitudes, values and beliefs?

CAREER CONNECTIONS

[Career Connections Resources](#)

Standards Alignment	Topics	Essential Questions
Novice Low/Mid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Career Awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For which careers do I need a world language? In which careers would knowing a world language be a benefit? Which professions/jobs are in-demand in my own and target cultures?
Novice High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Career Exploration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Which professions are necessary for a community to thrive? Which professions interest me? How do I prepare myself for a profession? In which professions can I utilize my language and intercultural skills?
Intermediate Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 21st-Century Skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What skills are needed to function in the global 21st-century world? Why are 21st century skills so important? How do I identify my aptitudes and build my skills to find a suitable career?
Intermediate Mid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Career Planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Which skills, talent and education are valued by potential employers? How do I evaluate my skills and aptitudes to find a suitable career? How do I develop my goals for the future to prepare me for potential careers?
Intermediate High /Advanced Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Career Opportunities and Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do career opportunities evolve? How does speaking a second language expand career opportunities? How can I evaluate my career goals to find related opportunities? How do I make an effective transition from school to career? What are similarities and differences in job descriptions (both linguistic and cultural) for the same careers in communities across the globe? Why are language and culture inseparable when engaging in 21st-century professions?

COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA

Instructional Resources

Standards Alignment	Topics	Essential Questions
Novice Low/Mid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advertising Internet Text Messages Email Social Media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What can ads tell us about our societal values? How does texting change our social and communication habits? How do I communicate using email? How do I communicate using social media?
Novice High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mail/Letters Radio/TV Movies Social Media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do we communicate with each other? What has changed historically in the way we communicate with each other? How does online communication change our social habits? What do my media habits say about me?
Intermediate Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current Events Social Media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do I learn what is happening around the world? How do current events in other countries and social media impact each other? How does social media impact my life? How can I use social media to connect with people in other countries or other cultures?
Intermediate Mid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Censorship Sensationalism Perspectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the media report only facts? What does sensationalism in the media look like? Why does sensationalism in the media exist? What impacts our perspectives and point of view?
Intermediate High /Advanced Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data Global Perspective Propaganda 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do people interact and gather data for the purposes of entertainment and information? How do globalized products and practices impact perspectives across cultures? What does propaganda look like? How do I critically examine information in the media?

CONTEMPORARY LIFE

Instructional Resources

Standards Alignment	Topics	Essential Questions
Novice Low/Mid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clothing • Things I Like to Do • Entertainment • Music • Sports • Vacation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is my personal style? • How does what I do or what I wear define who I am? • What youth activities are the same or different in my own and target cultures? • What do leisure time activities tell us about the values of a culture? • How does my culture's concept of vacation differ from that of target cultures?
Novice High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leisure Activities • Housing • Daily Routine • School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How balanced is my lifestyle? • How are my daily activities different from or similar to those in target cultures? • How does housing in my culture compare to housing in target cultures? • How is my school day similar to or different from the school day in target cultures? • What is a "good" education?
Intermediate Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel • Planning/Taking a Trip • Tourism • Customs/Etiquette • Transportation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does travel change one's life? • How do we decide where to travel? • How do we interact according to cultural norms when traveling? • How and why is transportation similar or different across cultures?
Intermediate Mid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entertainment • Youth Culture • Current Events • Government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do cultural trends and entertainment become globalized? • How do global events impact our lives? • How do various cultures define "quality of life"? • What role does government play in the quality of life of society?
Intermediate High /Advanced Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education and Career • Current Events • Social Values and Customs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are we preparing for life in the future? • How is contemporary life influenced by global products, practices and perspectives? • How do cultural customs reflect a society's values?

FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

Instructional Resources

Standards Alignment	Topics	Essential Questions
Novice Low/Mid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Members School Celebrations Rites of Passage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whom do I consider to be part of my family? Who is important to me and what are they like? How are families in my culture similar to and different from families in target cultures? How does my school day differ from the school day in target cultures? How do common celebrations in target cultures differ from celebrations in my culture? What are important rites of passage across cultures?
Novice High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Places in the Community Directions Transportation People in the Community Professions Chores Dining 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the important places in my community? How is my family part of the community? How do I travel in my community and in a target community? What are the characteristics of a community? What professions are needed in communities? How do I contribute to my family's well-being? How do eating and dining habits compare across cultures?
Intermediate Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holidays and Celebrations Traditions and Ceremonies Education Heroes and Heroines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do celebrated events define and impact the identity of a community? What makes a "good" education? Who is a hero or heroine to me? Why? What are characteristics of heroes or heroines across cultures and how do they compare?
Intermediate Mid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education Family Structure Age Adolescence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What does it mean to be an "educated person?" Is education a right or a privilege? How do I prepare for my work future? How are the evolving trends and roles of families changing? How is age valued across cultures?
Intermediate High /Advanced Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Citizenship/Community Service Diversity Family Structure Social Class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do individuals contribute to the well-being of communities? How do the roles that families and communities assume differ in societies around the world? What constitutes a family in different cultures? What aspects of our lives does social class influence?

GLOBAL ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

Instructional Resources

Standards Alignment	Topics	Essential Questions
Novice Low/Mid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geography • Animals • Landforms • Countries and Capitals • Food and Water • Environmental Issues • Priorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where do they speak_____? • How does geography impact people's lives? • Who is hungry, and where do they live? • What do my food choices say about me? • Which food choices in target cultures are similar to/different from my choices? • Who has clean water? • What environmental choices do I make? • What global issues are important to me?
Novice High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation • Animals • Landforms • Poverty and Hunger 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What transportation differences exist across cultures? • What part do animals play across cultures? • How does geography affect poverty? • What global initiatives fight poverty and hunger?
Intermediate Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Human Rights • Conservation • Water • Natural Resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why can't some children get a good education? • What are the rights of a child? • Do humans have an obligation to protect nature? • What is the connection between clean water and quality of life? • How do we use natural resources wisely?
Intermediate Mid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immigration • Poverty • Global Connections • Sustainable Energy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What circumstances cause people to immigrate? • What are the local and global consequences of poverty? • How are we connected to the world and what is our global impact? • What is a global citizen, and what are their responsibilities? • What are sustainable development strategies and how are they established and enforced?
Intermediate High /Advanced Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Issues • Economic Issues • Global Perspectives • Safety • Political Issues • Peace and War • Human Rights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What environmental issues challenge societies across cultures? What are possible solutions? • How are economies changing locally and globally? • How do we learn to understand others' perspectives? • How do we learn what are appropriate actions to take as a global citizen? • How does the type of government affect quality of life? • What does import and export data tell us about global interactions? • What does "freedom" mean across cultures?

INTERDISCIPLINARY/STEM

Instructional Resources

Standards Alignment	Topics	Essential Questions
Novice Low/Mid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weather Numbers and Punctuation Computation Metric System Calendar Time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does weather affect our lives, our clothing, and our outdoor and indoor activities? What are the weather differences in other hemispheres or countries? How do people do math or monetary computations in target cultures? What do calendar formats tell us about a culture? How does the concept of punctuality differ by country?
Novice High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Body Parts Health/Fitness History Historical Timelines Science 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is a healthy lifestyle in various cultures? What impact do major historical events have on people's lives and the future of a country? How are specific world events reflected on a timeline in target countries? What [language] derivatives are present in modern biology and medical terminology?
Intermediate Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health Fitness Science/Technology History/Historical Timelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do I live a healthy lifestyle? Who are innovators in science and technology? How has the past impacted the present across cultures?
Intermediate Mid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal Technologies Science/Medicine Environmental Issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do advances in science, medicine and technology impact my life today? What is the relationship between humans and nature?
Intermediate High /Advanced Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthcare Treatment of the Elderly Current Research Topics Inventions as Catalysts to Change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How have developments in healthcare affected our lives and the lives of others globally? How do different cultures value age? What role do ethics play in scientific advances? How do developments in science and technology affect societies?

PERSONAL AND PUBLIC IDENTITIES

Instructional Resources

Standards Alignment	Topics	Essential Questions
Novice Low/Mid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age • Levels of Formality • Where I Live and My Heritage • Greetings/Leave-Taking • Eye Contact • Personal Space • Gestures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who am I? • What is my heritage? • Where do I consider “home”? • How do I interact with members of target cultures in a culturally appropriate manner? • How do behavioral norms differ across cultures? • How do cultural gestures impact communication?
Novice High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nationalities • Image • Cultural Expectations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who am I, and how do I relate to my community? • How do others see me? • How am I unique? • How does where I am from or where I live define who I am?
Intermediate Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethnic Groups • Nationalities • Etiquette • Cultural Practices • Service • Stereotypes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do I relate or connect to people from other cultures? • How can I use my language or other skills to interact with cultural groups in my community in an appropriate manner? • What unique cultural practices can be observed in authentic materials such as videos and news articles? • What is the role of community service across cultures? • How do stereotypes arise?
Intermediate Mid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Character Analysis in Literature and Media • Personal Image • Public Image • Stereotypes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are aspects of a person’s identity expressed in literature or media? • How do language and culture influence individual or group actions? • How do roles of members of a society impact their image? • How can we minimize stereotyping?
Intermediate High /Advanced Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identity • Language • Multiculturalism • Generational Issues • Alienation and Assimilation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are aspects of identity expressed in various situations? • How does learning another language and culture influence who I am and my view of the world? • Why do some people not adapt well to another culture?

