

CULTURE CLUB



Presenters' Handbook

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Welcome to the Culture Club program!

I'm very excited about this year's Culture Club opportunities. Last year we made about 35 presentations in at least 10 different schools, speaking with students from 5 years of age to 13!

I hope you'll enjoy sharing your culture with local students—your enthusiasm can literally change their world. Many of your students will know nothing about your homeland, but your interaction with them has the potential to encourage them to study it further, and perhaps even to visit one day. Most importantly, we should bear in mind that the goal of our program is to make learning fun and to give the students an experience that they can't obtain from a textbook or their regular teacher.

This handbook, along with the workshop, will prepare you for giving short presentations to different classes throughout Durham. It contains a brief history of the program, logistical information, basic rules, presentation tips, and even sample outlines!

Thank you for volunteering! I look forward to working with you and wish you the very best of luck!

**Patrick Morris
International House**

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HISTORY

CULTURE CLUBS ARE THE SCHOOL-BASED BRANCH OF A DUKE-DURHAM CULTURAL EXCHANGE THAT HAS OCCURRED INFORMALLY FOR MORE THAN TWO DECADES.

ORIGINALLY ORGANIZED UNDER THE SPEAKERS' BUREAU, INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS WERE RECRUITED TO GIVE TALKS ABOUT THEIR HOME COUNTRIES TO VARIOUS COMMUNITY GROUPS. LATER, THIS PROGRAM WAS RENAMED THE SPEAKERS' PANORAMA.

IN 2003, INTERNATIONAL HOUSE ESTABLISHED FORMAL LINKS WITH LOCAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS AND THUS MADE CULTURE CLUBS A VERY SPECIAL PART OF THE PANORAMA. INTERNATIONAL DUKE STUDENTS, SCHOLARS, AND SPOUSES—AS WELL AS RETURNED STUDY ABROAD PARTICIPANTS—MET WITH LOCAL CLASSES TO DISCUSS CULTURAL TRADITIONS AT HOME AND ABROAD.

AS THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AT DUKE CONTINUES TO GROW IN NUMBER AND DIVERSITY, WE HOPE THAT CULTURE CLUB BECOMES A PERVERSIVE AND VALUABLE RESOURCE TO BROADEN THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE OF DURHAM STUDENTS.

PROGRAM LOGISTICS (FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS)

If I came to one of the workshops does that mean I absolutely have to make a presentation? Absolutely not. Requests for presentations come in at all different times throughout the year, and student schedules often get busier than what they originally foresaw. If you know that you absolutely do not want to be a presenter, then please do not fill out a registration form.

Is there a chance that I might never actually make a presentation? Because of scheduling conflicts, that chance is possible. However, I have and will continue to do heavy advertising with schools so that hopefully everyone will have at least one opportunity to make a presentation.

How far in advance will I know about a presentation opportunity? I am requiring schools to request speakers at least 2 weeks in advance. However, I encourage you to be prepared prior to that so that you only need to make a few adjustments after you are contacted.

Can I make a presentation with a partner? Yes! Some of our best presentations have been done by two or more people working together. If you meet someone at the workshop or know of a friend who could help you, feel free to plan a presentation together. One problem: scheduling conflicts might prevent two people from both being available at the time a presentation is needed, so be prepared to give a solo presentation also!

What circumstances would lead removal from the program? 1) Showing up late or skipping a scheduled presentation. 2) Using inappropriate comments or proselytizing during a presentation.

Will there be any money or reimbursement for materials or travel? Unfortunately, no. The preparation and execution of these presentations is purely voluntary. Transportation may be provided if you have no other means to get to a school.

PRESENTATION TIPS & PREPARATION TIPS

- I. Engage!
- II. Have a Plan
- III. Personalize
- IV. Know your role



I. ENGAGE!

- 1) Ask open-ended questions
- 2) Prepare at least 2 or 3 interactive activities
- 3) Be visual: Power point, pictures, artifacts, dress, etc.
- 4) Smile! Be friendly! Show enthusiasm! Speak slowly and clearly and check that everyone can understand you.

Interactive Ideas

- **Language Lesson**
- **Role Play**
- **Small Art Project**
- **Teach a song, chant, or dance**
- **Read a children's book**
- **Play a game**

II. HAVE A PLAN (See Sample Plans on the next page)

- 1) Break presentation into small 5-7 min segments
- 2) Know how you want kids to participate
- 3) Power Point is helpful but not necessary

SAMPLE LESSON #1 (ELEMENTARY SCHOOL)

- SET UP MATERIALS—1-2 MINUTES
- INTRODUCTIONS—3 MINUTES
- BRIEF BACKGROUND OF YOUR REGION—5 MINUTES
- BRIEF LANGUAGE LESSON – 5 MINUTES
- YOUR LIFE STORY—5-10 MINUTES
- TEACH SIMPLE SONG/DANCE—10-12 MINUTES
- TYPICAL CHILD’S DAY IN [COUNTRY]—8-10 MINUTES
- DISCUSS TYPICAL FOODS—5 MINUTES
- DISCUSS CULTURAL HOLIDAYS—5 MINUTES
- SHOW AND TELL ABOUT ANIMALS—5-8 MINUTES
- QUESTIONS—5-7 MINUTES

SAY GOODBYE, THANK THEM, AND LEAVE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS IN CASE THE CLASS HAS FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS



SAMPLE LESSON #2 (MIDDLE SCHOOL)

SET UP MATERIALS—3-4 MINUTES
INTRODUCTIONS AND BACKGROUND—5-8 MINUTES
TEACH GREETINGS IN [LANGUAGE]—5-7 MINUTES
TEACH SIMPLE SONG/DANCE—10-12 MINUTES
DISTRIBUTE AND EAT ETHNIC FOOD—5 MINUTES
LET CLASS TRY ON NATIVE CLOTHES—10 MINUTES
SHOW ART FROM [COUNTRY]—3-5 MINUTES
DISCUSS DATING AND MARRIAGE IN YOUR COUNTRY - 7 MINUTES
QUIZ THE CLASS ON YOUR COUNTRY – GIVE PRIZES – 5 MINUTES
QUESTIONS—5-7 MINUTES

SAY GOODBYE, THANK THEM, AND LEAVE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS IN CASE THE CLASS HAS FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

III. PERSONALIZE

- 1) Talk about your own schooling
- 2) Talk about your own family culture (religion, social habits, etc)
- 3) Talk about what brought you to Duke
- 4) Show personal pictures

IV. KNOW YOUR ROLE

- 1) Speak about what you know
- 2) Don't feel like you have to be an expert on everything
- 3) Don't solve behavior problems

OTHER TIPS:

1. The younger the class is, the less lecturing you should do. For all ages it is a good idea to have students repeat cultural words or phrases.
2. Reinforce student responses in a positive way (e.g. "Good guess!, or Almost!)
3. Avoid talks about politics and history. American children are not accustomed to lengthy factual lectures and will likely not have enough background information to understand you.
4. Get on the same level with your kids. If they are sitting on the floor, don't insist on standing behind a podium. Use age-appropriate vocabulary and concepts. Try to walk around the room to involve everyone.
5. Try not to take offense to questions or statements that seem ignorant or stereotypical. This is a wonderful opportunity to educate children who are responding to negative images they are hearing and seeing in the media.
6. Be flexible during your preparation. It is best to have different topics to discuss and be able to change the activities when you know the age and size of the class.

Have fun and Enjoy the Students! You will no doubt come away with a rewarding and funny experience! Kids really do say the darndest things!

North Carolina Learning Standards

All teachers in North Carolina have to make sure everything they do coordinates with the goals established in the “Standard Course of Study.” If you really want to impress a teacher, email him or her a brief description of how your presentation will fit one or more of these goals. There are different goals for different grades. They can all be found online at the following website:

<http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/curriculum/socialstudies/scos/>

EXAMPLE FOR A FIRST GRADE CLASSROOM:

The Goal:

Competency Goal 3:

The learner will recognize and understand the concept of change in various settings.

3.03 Compare and contrast past and present changes within the local community and communities around the world.

Your Description:

“My presentation will help the students better understand the life of similar aged children in India. They then will be able to compare and contrast their own experiences with the ones that I describe.”

OTHER RESOURCES:

- The International House has fact books about different countries that you are free to borrow. You can also borrow your country’s flag from the I-House.
- Online websites such as www.wikipedia.com contain encyclopedia descriptions of whatever you want.