



Passion Project #03: ***Language and Cultural Exchange Pen Pal Program***

This project will pair students who are multilingual, especially those fluent in European languages and English, with peers who are learning English as a second language. The idea is to create a friendly, supportive pen pal exchange that blends language learning with cultural exploration. You could use a mix of platforms—like incorporating a Duolingo challenge, sharing National Geographic resources for cultural themes, and having students communicate regularly to practice language skills.

CAS Learning Outcomes Alignment:

Global Awareness: *Students will gain a deeper understanding of different cultures through direct communication and shared experiences.*

Communication Skills: *They'll enhance their communication abilities in both their native and target languages.*

Commitment and Perseverance: *Engaging in a long-term pen pal program will encourage consistency and ongoing commitment.*

Personal Challenge: *For some students, this will be a chance to step out of their comfort zone and build new friendships across borders.*

Step	What to Do	Details & Examples	CAS Link
1. Choose a Partner Group / Country	Decide what language or culture you want to connect with (e.g. students learning English in Brazil, French speakers in Morocco).	Use teacher contacts, friends, or platforms like ePals or UNESCO clubs to find a matching group.	Global Engagement, Initiative
2. Define Project Goals & Format	Will the pen pals exchange letters, videos, artwork, or voice recordings? How often will they communicate?	Example: Monthly letter swap, or digital messages with optional voice notes to help with pronunciation.	Planning, Communication
3. Assign Roles Within the Team	Roles could include: Coordinators, Translators, Graphic Designers, Tech Support, and Documenters.	Example: One student manages timelines; another translates between English and Portuguese.	Collaboration, Commitment
4. Design a Starter Kit / Intro Pack	Create a welcome letter template with prompts: "My name is...", "My favorite food is...", "I live in..."	Include fun visuals like flags, local foods, or mini-drawings.	Creativity, Identity
5. Launch First Exchange	Write and send the first message or letter. Ensure everyone is matched with a partner.	This can be handwritten (scanned/emailed) or sent via school email.	Communication, Cultural Awareness
6. Create a Culture Share Calendar	Plan monthly themes to explore and share: holidays, music, traditions, street food, slang, etc.	Example: "October – Food & Recipes," "November – Music & Dance," "December – Holiday Traditions."	Creativity, Global Understanding
7. Document the Journey	Each student keeps a mini-journal (written or visual) to reflect on what they learn and feel after each exchange.	Take screenshots, photos of letters, or create scrapbook-style reflections.	Reflection, Engagement
8. Host a Final Cultural Exchange Showcase	Create a board or digital slideshow of your favorite exchanges, cultural discoveries, and shared experiences.	Invite other students or parents to view your "Pen Pal Gallery."	Celebration, Reflection