

## Close Encounters of the <sup>2<sup>nd</sup></sup> Language Kind

Somewhere or sometime when you least expect it, you may be surprised by an encounter with the Spanish-speaking world or its culture. It might be a google doodle celebrating a person, painting, or event you learned about in class. The encounter may occur while you're watching a movie with friends and you suddenly understand a Spanish line spoken in the movie. You may overhear a family conversation at Wal-mart and pick out a few of the words. A song might come on in a Mexican restaurant that you recognize from class. Even closer encounters can occur. A customer or coworker at your job might be a native speaker and they (or even better, you) might initiate a conversation in Spanish. You might come across a song and look up the lyrics (letras) or download it. You get the idea.

These encounters are exciting and close encounters can sometimes be nerve-racking or scary. They are also important. You are making connections outside of the classroom and in a real world setting.

**Use this form to document your experience. Then add it to your portfolio.**

**Example:**

**TITLE:** *The Customer at Work*

**WHEN:** *Last Wednesday*

**WHERE:** *Farm Fresh*

**WHO?** *My coworker, John and some customers*

**WHO?** *A regular customer and I*

**WHAT happened?** *I was working at the cash register and the regular customer came up to ring out. I know he doesn't speak much English so I finally tried to speak Spanish with him. I said ;Hola; ¿Cómo estás? He smiled and said "bien." Then, he said a bunch of stuff I didn't understand. I couldn't remember how to say "sloover please", so I didn't say anything back. We both started laughing. He asked "¿Cuánto est, and I told him the total in Spanish. He paid, said "gracias", and left.*

**HOW did you feel?** *A little nervous at first, then overwhelmed. I felt kind of stupid for trying but then I felt better when I told him the total in Spanish. I'm proud of myself for trying.*

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**TITLE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**WHEN** did the encounter occur? \_\_\_\_\_

**WHERE** did the encounter occur? \_\_\_\_\_

**WHO** were you with? \_\_\_\_\_

**WHO** was involved? \_\_\_\_\_

**WHAT** happened? \_\_\_\_\_

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**HOW** did you feel?

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**OTHER** thoughts

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