

## Projeto: Entrevistas Etnográficas

### Overview

Culture learning is an essential part of language learning. Most of the members of any particular culture share certain attitudes, beliefs, values, and ways of looking at the world that are shaped by the culture they belong to. One of the best ways of learning about these cultural views is by talking personally with a native of the culture.

For this project you will team up with a partner from your class to conduct a series of three ethnographic interviews during the semester with a native of a Portuguese-speaking country (Angola, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Guiné-Bissau, Moçambique, Portugal - including Madeira and the Azores, or São Tomé e Príncipe).

### Explanation of Project Requirements

#### **1. The Interviews**

The main element of the project is a series of **three personal interviews** that you and a partner will conduct with a native Portuguese speaker. You and your partner are responsible for finding your own person to interview; however, your instructor may be able to provide help if needed. (An excellent place to look is the Portuguese LDS branch in Orem.) The best interviewees are usually people who came to the U.S. as young adults or older rather than as children, and who have been here for a relatively short period of time rather than for many years.

The interviews will focus on learning what it is like for a native of a Portuguese-speaking country to live in Utah. Ethnographic interviewing techniques will be discussed and practiced in class. These interviews are an excellent chance for you to practice your Portuguese with a native speaker; however, because ethnographic interviewing requires active listening and spontaneous question formation, you may use some English in your interviews if your interviewee is comfortable with English. If desired, and if your interviewee agrees, you may make an audio recording of the interviews to aid you in writing your reflections later, although recording is not required.

#### **2. The Written Reflections**

After each interview you will write a one-page **reflection** in English on your experience in conducting the interviews. You and your partner should each write a separate reflection. Rather than just listing the topics you discussed, focus on new things that you learned about your interviewee and his/her culture, and about yourself and your own culture. You may also want to discuss your feelings and/or your interviewee's feelings about the interview.

#### **3. The Oral Presentation**

Toward the end of the semester you and your partner will work together to prepare a six-minute **oral presentation** in Portuguese about what you learned in the interview project. Each partner should plan to talk for approximately half of the time. Your presentation should impart some of the insight each of you gained through the interview process. This may include a wide variety of subjects, including: the native culture of your interviewee, your own native culture, the nature of culture itself, the process of ethnographic interviewing, language, surprises, laughs, and tragedies. In choosing your theme, it is best to focus on specific areas which you can describe with details, explain with examples, and illustrate with visual aids. Think of what you can say in Portuguese, and show what you can do!

#### **4. The Paper**

At the end of the semester you will submit a 2-3 page paper in Portuguese summarizing what you learned from the interviews. The content will probably be similar to what you presented orally to the class, but you and your partner should each submit your own paper.

## Hints for Conducting Successful Interviews

### Preparing for the interviews

·Contact your interviewee (a face-to-face or phone conversation is better than email) to explain the project, ask if the person is willing to participate, and set up an appointment for the first interview.

### Planning for the interview

·With your partner, write out the questions that you plan to ask in Portuguese. Remember, however, that the object of the interview is not to go quickly through a set of pre-planned questions, but rather to build a conversation around a few open-ended questions and go into as much depth as possible on each question.

### **Sample Questions for Ethnographic Interviews**

- What is it like to be a Brazilian living in Utah?
- How did your daily life in Brazil differ from your life in Utah?
- What surprised you when you arrived in Utah?
- What do you like about the United States? What don't you like?
- What do you miss about Brazil?
- If you were talking to a friend in Brazil about life in the U.S., what would you tell him or her?
- What things do you think Brazilians consider most important in life? Do you think Americans have the same priorities? Why or why not?

### Conducting the interview

- If you plan to record the interview, verify that you have the person's permission.
- Become acquainted with the person; build rapport
  - Start with a general "grand tour" question
  - Build follow-up questions on the person's responses; repeat key items and ask for expansion
  - Encourage the person to talk:
    - pause and allow time to respond
    - stay on one topic until it is exhausted; go into as much depth as possible
    - ask for clarification if you don't understand
    - restate what the person says to check your own comprehension
- Take some notes during the interview to help you remember the topics that come up.
- Thank the person and make an appointment for the next interview.
- Each interview should take approximately 45-60 minutes.

### Writing your reflection

·As soon as possible after the interview, write a one-page reflection on what you learned.

### Planning for the next interview

·After writing your reflection, jot down some notes on topics that you want to ask about or go into more depth on in the next interview.

### Critérios de avaliação – Entrevistas Etnográficas

<u>Apresentação oral</u>	Poor			Excellent	
Equal participation by both partners	1	2	3	4	5
Approximately 6 minutes	1	2	3	4	5
Specific cultural themes identified, with examples	1	2	3	4	5
Meaningful insights on interviewee's culture and own culture	1	2	3	4	5
Use of Portuguese (vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation)	1	2	3	4	5

<u>Trabalho escrito</u>					
Approximately 3 pages, neatly typed	1	2	3	4	5
Specific cultural themes identified, with examples	1	2	3	4	5
Meaningful insights on interviewee and his/her culture	1	2	3	4	5
Meaningful reflections on own culture	1	2	3	4	5
Use of Portuguese (spelling, grammar, vocabulary)	1	2	3	4	5

**Total \_\_\_\_ x 2 = \_\_\_\_/100**