

## **Incorporating Culture, Diversity, and Inclusion in the Classroom**

Language is deeply intertwined with culture, this is why our projects seek to incorporate, acknowledge, and celebrate elements of society, such as tradition, cultural and linguistic diversity. Our panel discussion presents three initiatives to achieve this goal.

“Lengua Viva” is an interactive website that was created as a tool for language teachers to easily access additional material and incorporate culture into their classrooms while practicing grammar with their students. This project focuses on three Spanish-speaking countries: Mexico, Spain, and Colombia, providing a series of activities relating to each culture.

Iowa Intersections is a community-based multilingual oral history project developed to share and uplift stories that celebrate the cultural and linguistic diversity in the Iowa City area. Through the compilation of interviews, we can generate digital short stories that help spark a conversation about immigration, social justice, diversity, and inclusion.

In order to promote gender inclusivity within our classrooms and create a safe and respectful environment, it’s crucial to create awareness of the advancements in gender-neutral language. This particularly relates to traditionally binary gendered languages.

Language, much like our society, is fluid and constantly evolving. For this reason, as teachers, it is important to find ways to incorporate this into the classroom. This roundtable will discuss ways in which we can enhance cultural and linguistic diversity as well as gender inclusivity in our language learning and teaching.