Purpose and Benefits of Pulsar: Answer Key

Training Resource for New Teachers

The answers you see below accompany the Acquire portion of the Pulsar Training Module for New Teachers.

1. In your own words, what is Pulsar's purpose?

    > Feedback: Answers will vary. Your answer should have included the following information: 1) Pulsar is intended to document a student's language learning journey and 2) Pulsar is intended to facilitate learner goal-setting, self-evaluation, and deep reflection.

2. Scenario: *A student establishes a goal of being able to ask for help in supermarketwhich the target language is spoken. After he successfully has the conversation, he uploads a photograph of his receipt to Pulsar as evidence and evaluates his status as "Can do well." You review his evidence.*

   How should you respond?

   a) Tell the student that a photograph cannot prove his interpersonal communicative skills and that he needs to capture evidence differently.
   b) Change the student's Can-Do status from "Can do well" to "This is a goal," since there is no evidence of what he actually said.
   c) Ask the student to provide more information.
   d) A and B
   e) A and C
   f) Need more information.

   > Feedback: The correct answer is F. In order to answer this question, you need to understand a bit more about the context of the student's interaction at the supermarket. For example, if the student was simply practicing, that the receipt helps him self-evaluate and reflect is what is most important. Thus, the fact that you cannot hear the conversation doesn't necessarily matter. However, If you assigned the task to the student or he wants you to review the evidence to provide feedback, you would likely need to hear the recorded conversation.

3. What are the benefits of using language portfolios like Pulsar in the classroom?
   a) They help learners understand language proficiency

b) They understand what they are learning and are able to articulate it.
c) They focus on what they CAN do.
d) They are able to set goals for themselves.
e) They are able to select the evidence that most reflects their achievements in the target language.
f) All of the above.

Feedback: The correct answer is F. Language learning portfolios help learners understand language proficiency, understand how what they are doing relates to what they are learning, and focuses them on what they can do. Additionally, student autonomy within the platform is beneficial to self-regulated learning and sustained meaningful reflection.