Apply: Explaining the Benefits and Purpose of Pulsar to Students

Training Resource for New Teachers

This resource provides teachers with ideas regarding how to introduce students to Pulsar.

Presenting Pulsar to Students: Elevator Speech

When presenting Pulsar to your students for the first time, you should tell them what it is, what they will do with it, and why it will be beneficial to their learning.

Consider our example speech below.

> *Hi everyone! Today, we are going to get started with Pulsar. Pulsar is a language learning portfolio that you get to use to 1) upload evidence of your learning; evidence that YOU get to choose, 2) set your own goals for learning, and 3) see just how much you have grown by the program's end. Plus, there is a mobile app to use so that you can easily capture evidence and upload it immediately. It's fun, and other students using similar portfolios say that seeing how much they have learned by the program's end makes them proud.*
>
> *So that you can see how easy it is, I have been recording myself talking to you for the past minute. I will share my screen and upload that as evidence. Can anyone help me evaluate it?*

Take a moment before going to the next page to mark the speech. Use yellow to indicate where you have found statements about what Pulsar is, blue to indicate where you have found what learners will do with the portfolio, and green to indicate where you have found statements regarding Pulsar's benefit.

> *Hi everyone! Today, we are going to get started with Pulsar.* <mark>*Pulsar is a language learning portfolio*</mark> *that you get to use to 1)* <mark>*upload evidence of your learning*</mark>; <mark>*evidence that YOU get to choose*</mark>, *2)* <mark>*set your own goals for learning*</mark>, *and 3)* <mark>*see just how much you have grown*</mark> *by the program's end. Plus, there is a mobile app to use so that you can easily capture evidence and upload it immediately.* <mark>*It's fun, and other students using similar portfolios say that seeing how much they have learned by the program's end makes them proud.*</mark>
>
> *So that you can see how easy it is, I have been recording myself talking to you for the past minute. I will share my screen and upload that as evidence. Can anyone help me evaluate it?*

This speech is student-friendly and informs learners that Pulsar is a language learning portfolio they will use for uploading evidence of their learning. It also indicates that the students will be able to use Pulsar to visualize their growth overtime and that using Pulsar will be a positive experience. As an added bonus, the teacher also models using Pulsar at the end of the speech. This will help students find it approachable.

Presenting Pulsar to Students: Classroom Activities

Here are some classroom activities for presenting Pulsar to students.

Getting started competition: A first-day competition to see who can finish tasks related to Pulsar the fastest.
- Sign up
- Complete profile
- Upload evidence to a Can-Do Cluster
- Upload evidence with Advanced Upload
- Find: Notifications, My Evidence, and My Proficiency Overview
- Note one way in which you plan to use Pulsar to inform your learning (setting goals, reflecting on growth, etc.)

Proficiency Pile-Up: Students create examples of a language function at three different proficiency sublevels. (The example below could be shared with the class as an exemplar for introductions at the novice level).
    -John (Novice Low)
    -Hi, Sophia. My name is John. (Novice Mid)
    -Nice to meet you, Sophia. I'm John. I'm from San Diego and I love to play video
     games. How about you? (Novice High)

I can do it!: Students think of a task they do in their normal lives and explain how

each level of achievement (This is a goal./Can do with help/Can do/Can do well) might be evidenced.