

**WEBQUEST FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS OF ITALIAN
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-COLUMBIA**

A SUMMER STUDY HOLIDAY IN ITALY

INTRODUCTION

Learning a foreign language also means learning about the country of the people who speak it. A language does not exist in a vacuum. It is deeply embedded in the culture of all its speakers. You are going to discover more about Italy, its people and its language through a series of activities made possible by the Internet. You will plan a five-week summer study holiday in Italy.

THE TASK

You will work in pairs over a period of four weeks, both during lab classes and in your own time. You will plan a five-week summer study holiday in Italy on a budget of 3,000 euros. You will need to find a flight, a language school and a place to stay in a location of your choice. You will also need to plan your weekends, your trips etc.

You are required to produce a **PowerPoint presentation** with detailed descriptions of your plans including pictures and graphics to show to a representative of the Italian Consulate in Chicago (<http://www.iicch.org/english.htm>) in order to convince them to give you financial support. If you need to learn how to use PowerPoint, which is really easy, you will find a good tutorial at http://www.education-world.com/a_tech/tech013.shtml You can download it, print out the slides and use them as a guide as you create your own PowerPoint presentation.

Most sites you will be visiting are both in Italian and English. However, the PowerPoint presentation will have to be in Italian. For this reason, try to work on the Italian version of the Web sites as much as you can. In this way you will practice what you already know (you'll see how much you know!) and will also learn a lot of new language. Remember that you can use all the resources that the Web offers, like the on-line Collins Italian-English-Italian dictionary at www.wordreference.com. Your instructor will always be available to help you. However, try to use the reading skills that you have been practicing in class (skimming and scanning, for example). You will rarely need to understand every single word!

THE PROCESS

Find a partner. You will be traveling in pairs. This is your second semester of Italian, so you have had a chance to get to know each other over the past semester. As soon as you

Vito Brondolo
University of Missouri-Columbia
vb9p9@mizzou.edu

have found someone you would really like to spend a summer vacation in Italy with, email your instructor. This will allow him to match up students who cannot find partner. I suggest that you work in pairs most of the times. However, one of the two should be more concerned with the technical aspects of the plan, like finding a flight or a hotel room for one of the weekends. The other, instead, should take care of the cultural aspects, like visiting museums, finding excursions and planning free time activities.

Follow the steps. The questions are there to help you plan. Remember not to exceed the 3,500 euros budget! Explore the Web sites listed, but feel free to surf other sites as well. Find them with a search engine like www.google.it , www.altavista.it or www.virgilio.it

Where is Italy exactly?

- Latitude
- longitude.

Find a map (you can use a paper atlas and scan a map for the PowerPoint presentation)

About

<http://geography.about.com/library/maps/blitaly.htm>

What is the **climate** like over there in the summer?

- Hotter or colder than in Missouri?
- Dryer or more humid?
- Average temperatures?

iExplore

<http://www.iexplore.com/dmap/Italy/Weather+and+Climate>

World Travel Guide

<http://www.travel-guide.com/data/ita/ita500.asp>

Italy is part of the European Union, so the currency is now the **euro**. Get acquainted with this new currency.

<http://www.euro.ecb.int/it.html>

What documents do you need to travel to Italy?

- passport?
- visa?
- special vaccines?

Italian Embassy in the US

<http://www.italyemb.org/Visti.htm>

Italian Consulate in Chicago

<http://www.italconschicago.org/english/index.htm>

Yahoo Italia! Finanza

<http://it.biz.yahoo.com/euro.html>

Lonely Planet Travel Guide

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/destinations/europe/italy/index.htm>

Decide whether you want to stay in a small town or big city. Maybe you want to stay at a seaside resort instead. It is up to you. You need to decide this so you will know where to look for a language school.

Find a language school that offers Italian classes for foreigners.

- You want to do an intensive course (at least 3 hours a day) for 4 weeks.
- The fifth and last week you want to be free and have all the time for traveling and getting ready to fly back home.
- Remember that you will have to start college again in August so plan the dates of your trip accordingly.

You can also ask the **International Center** here on campus if they have information about language courses in Italy.

It Schools –Italian Language Schools

<http://www.it-schools.com/index.htm>

Università per Stranieri di Siena

<http://www.unistrasi.it/italiano>

Università per Stranieri di Perugia

<http://www.unistrapg.it/homepage.htm>

University of Missouri-Columbia International Center

<http://www.missouri.edu/~icweb>

Now that you have found the language course,

- decide the dates of your trip,
- find a flight to Italy, then
- look at a map and find the nearest airport to your language school.

www.expedia.it

www.cheaptickets.com

www.orbitz.com

or any other flight tickets site that you may know.

You may need to get to the town of your choice from the airport by train, by far the easiest way to travel in Italy. Check the official **Italian Railway** site at

www.trenitalia.it

Vito Brondolo
University of Missouri-Columbia
vb9p9@mizzou.edu

Now that you know exactly when you will arrive at destination, you can think of a place where to stay. Hotel? Try at

<http://www.itwg.com/home.asp?Language=ITA>

It might be expensive though. What about a youth hostel? Go to

<http://www.ostellionline.org>

Have you thought of a Bed & Breakfast? B&B are a good option. Take a look at

Bed & Breakfast Italia

<http://195.110.141.138/Default.asp>

You could rent a private room too. There are dozens of Web sites where you can search for rooms. For example, if you decide to stay in Perugia (a popular destination for foreigners who want to improve their Italian) try **Perugia On-line**

<http://www.perugiaonline.it/alloggi/affit>

and search for an *affittacamere*, a landlord/lady.

Alternatively you can check with the language school whether they can help you find accommodation. Email them and ask for prices and availability.

Now that you have found the school and the accommodation, you are ready to plan your weekends.

Decide

- where to go
- how to get there
- where to stay and
- what to do

Start at the **Italian Government Tourist Board - North America**

<http://www.italiantourism.com>

The **Italian Government Tourist Board** is also a useful site

www.enit.it

For individual cities use a search engine and type in the name of the town + “informazioni” + “turismo”.

Vito Brondolo
University of Missouri-Columbia
vb9p9@mizzou.edu

For train times and fares go to

www.trenitalia.it

For hotels, youth hostels, Bed & Breakfast etc. see

<http://www.itwg.com/home.asp?Language=ITA>

<http://www.ostellionline.org>

<http://195.110.141.138/Default.asp>

EVALUATION

Your PowerPoint Presentation will be evaluated on four criteria:

- language (spelling, accuracy and vocabulary),
- content,
- organization and
- graphics

according to the rubric on the following page. The total maximum score you can get is 100. There will be a common grade for pair work.

Vito Brondolo
University of Missouri-Columbia
vb9p9@mizzou.edu

PowerPoint Presentation
Instructor: Vito Brondolo
Students' Names _____

Criteria	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Needs Improvement	
GRAMMAR					
Spelling	No relevant spelling errors found. 10 pts	No more than 3 spelling error found. 6 pts	No more than 4 spelling errors found. 3 pts	Several spelling errors found. 0 pts	/10
Accuracy	There are no grammar mistakes. 10 pts	There are few minor grammar mistakes. 6 pts	There are a few grammar mistakes. 3 pts	There are several grammar mistakes. 0 pts	/10
Vocabulary	Appropriate use of vocabulary including many new words. 20 pts	Appropriate use of vocabulary including some new words. 15 pts	The vocabulary is used appropriately although no new words are included. 10 pts	The authors do not incorporate new vocabulary - incorrect use of some of the words. 5 pts	/20
CONTENT	The information is rich, accurate and well researched. 20 pts	The information is accurate and well researched. 15 pts	There is just enough information. 10 pts	The information is not enough and/or not reliable. 0 pts	/20
ORGANIZATION	The presentation has a professional look with an overall graphical theme that appeals to the audience, complements the information, and each slide is visually neat. 20 pts	The presentation has attractive formatting and well-organized information. 15 pts	The presentation has well organized information, but is not particularly appealing to the audience. 10 pts	The formatting and organization of the presentation are confusing. 0 pts	/20
GRAPHICS	The presentation uses text, graphics and transitions that communicate and complement information being shared. 20 pts	The presentation uses text, graphics and transitions that make the overall look pleasant. 15 pts	The presentation uses text, graphics and transitions that do not enhance the overall look. 10 pts	The presentation uses text, graphics and transitions that make the information harder to understand. 5 pts	/20
					TOTAL /100

CONCLUSION

Now that you have made your PowerPoint presentation you are ready to show it to the representative of the Italian Consulate. Try to be as convincing as you can. Only the best ten plans will receive financial aid, so ... knock on wood! Or, as they say in Italian “in bocca al lupo!” (in the mouth of the wolf!)

TEACHER PAGE

The WebQuest **A Summer Study Holiday in Italy** has been designed for the students of Italian at the University of Missouri-Columbia in their second semester. It can be used over a period of a few weeks or set as an end-of-semester project.

The aim of the WebQuest is to plan a five-week summer study holiday in Italy on a budget of 3,500 euros and produce a PowerPoint presentation to show to a representative of the Italian Consulate in Chicago in order to get financial support.

The students have had about 80 hours of classroom instruction by the time they start the WebQuest and their level of Italian can be defined as “elementary”. They are at the A1 level of language proficiency of the **Common European Framework**¹ and are heading towards level A2. The **Common European Framework** is a document issued by the European Union to set the standards of proficiency for the languages of the union.

This means they can understand the main points of clear input on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, etc. They can deal with most situations likely to arise when traveling in Italy. They can produce simple connected text on topics which are familiar or of personal interest. They can understand sentences and frequently used expressions related to areas of most immediate relevance (e.g. very basic personal and family information, shopping, local geography, employment). They can communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters. They can describe in simple terms aspects of their background, immediate environment and matters in areas of immediate basic need.

The WebQuest addresses **standards 2.1** and **2.2** within the area of “Cultures” as defined in Standards for Foreign Language Learning: Preparing for the 21st Century commissioned by the **US Department of Education** and the **National Endowment for the Humanities**²

¹ Modern Languages: Learning, Teaching, Assessment. A Common European Framework of Reference, Strasbourg, Council of Europe Press, 1996. Available on-line at http://www.culture2.coe.int/portfolio/documents_intro/common_framework.html.

² Standards for Foreign Language Learning: Preparing for the 21st Century, US Department of Education and the National Endowment for the Humanities, first published in 1996 and then

Standard 2.1

Students demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the practices and perspectives of the culture studied.

Standard 2.2

Students demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the products and perspectives of the culture studied.

The Quest also addresses the **Technology Foundation Standards for All Students**, as defined by the **National Society for Technology in Education (ISTE)**³, in particular standards 3, 5 and 6.

3. Technology productivity tools

- *Students use technology tools to enhance learning, increase productivity, and promote creativity.*
- *Students use productivity tools to collaborate in constructing technology-enhanced models, prepare publications, and produce other creative works.*

5. Technology research tools

- *Students use technology to locate, evaluate, and collect information from a variety of sources.*
- *Students use technology tools to process data and report results.*
- *Students evaluate and select new information resources and technological innovations based on the appropriateness for specific tasks.*

6. Technology problem-solving and decision-making tools

- *Students use technology resources for solving problems and making informed decisions.*
- *Students employ technology in the development of strategies for solving problems in the real world.*

In conclusion, through the Quest students will have the opportunity to

- a) revise/practice/expand the language they already know,

revised in 1999. Available at the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages web site (<http://www.actfl.org/public/articles/details.cfm?id=33>).

³ ISTE web site: www.iste.org

Vito Brondolo
University of Missouri-Columbia

vb9p9@mizzou.edu

- b) gain insight into the products of the culture studied (standard 2.2 of the Standards for Foreign Language Learning);
- c) compare what they have found about Italy with their own country,
- d) engage in pair work, decision making, negotiating and problem solving;
- e) use technology to locate, evaluate, and collect information;
- f) use technology to solve problems and make informed decisions and last, but not least
- g) have fun!