

**SPAN 266    SPRING 2020**  
**FINAL BILINGUAL TRANSFORMATION PAPER**



During my opportunity to be in the Spanish 266: Spanish for Health Professions I learned not only how to communicate with Spanish speaking patients, but also the importance of free healthcare. I attended two health fairs and became president of the Spanish club, as well as talked with native Spanish speakers in Colombia and in Nicaragua. My experience overall with all three activities was positive. I would have liked to have been more hands-on and practiced my language skills more, but there will be a day for that.

While in Spanish 266 I learned medical vocabulary in Spanish, the proper way to communicate with patients, and gained many opportunities. The person I began as in Professor Martin's class was shy and not confident in her Spanish knowledge. I could go as far as to say I was intimidated by my classmates and their extensive knowledge of Spanish. This eventually wore off and I began to become more comfortable making mistakes and learning from them.

In addition to expanding my vocabulary in Spanish, I learned about different cultures and how their healthcare system is. For example, when I had my conversation with my TalkAbroad partner from Colombia I learned that Colombia's healthcare system is ranked 22nd in the world. I learned that like the United States, Colombia has hospitals that are the best and others that are not, and that there are private and public hospitals. Lastly, I learned that depending on your insurance and where you are in the country your healthcare will be affected.

A part of Spanish 266 is service learning, which is arguably my favorite part of the class. As stated before I have participated in two health fairs and enjoyed my experience at both of them. At the first health fair held in Newport News there were not many Spanish speaking patients and that was a little upsetting as I was looking forward to putting my language skills to work. However, while I was at the health fair I did learn a lot about different cultures, even if they were not Hispanic cultures.

In the second health fair held on the Eastern shore, I helped with the kids. Another classmate and I played BINGO with the kids. Although my Spanish was criticized by the kids it was a learning experience nonetheless. I enjoyed playing with the kids and seeing their faces light up when they reached BINGO! I learned how to enunciate better because of the kids and that some of the words we studied in class the kids knew different words for it.

Another thing I was able to do because I was in Spanish 266 was become Spanish Club president. Although my time as president was cut short by COVID-19 I enjoyed being a part of something bigger than me. I still have many big plans to ensure the Spanish club has a name on campus. I plan on being in the Spanish club again next year with hopes of being president again. In conclusion, I learned many things while in Spanish for Health Professions inside and outside the classroom. I learned that many families do not have access to healthcare and rely on free health fairs like the ones I volunteered at to maintain their health. I had the experience that many do not get and that is to peer into someone else's life and see what they see. It also gave me insight as to how other countries may not be the same or as different as they are perceived to be. This class evokes a sense of culture shock while staying in your backyard. I believe that this is an amazing class to take and I am grateful the opportunity was there.

En la clase de Espanol 266 yo aprendí muchas cosas. Por ejemplo, yo aprendí sobre culturas diferentes y cómo manejan las situaciones médicas. Durante mis conversaciones con mis socios de TalkAbroad, hablamos sobre cuán diferentes pero similares son nuestros países. Aprendí en Nicaragua que usan remedios más naturales en lugar de medicamentos recetados. Antes de esta clase, creía que la atención médica debería ser gratuita. Durante esta clase, experimenté cosas que reafirmaron mi creencia de que la atención médica debería ser gratuita.

Me siento agradecido de haber podido tomar esta clase y aprender no solo vocabulario, sino también experimentar cosas nuevas. Ahora entiendo cómo las culturas entran en juego cuando se trata con pacientes. Aprendí las diferentes formas de dirigirse a los pacientes y la forma de usar el vocabulario.