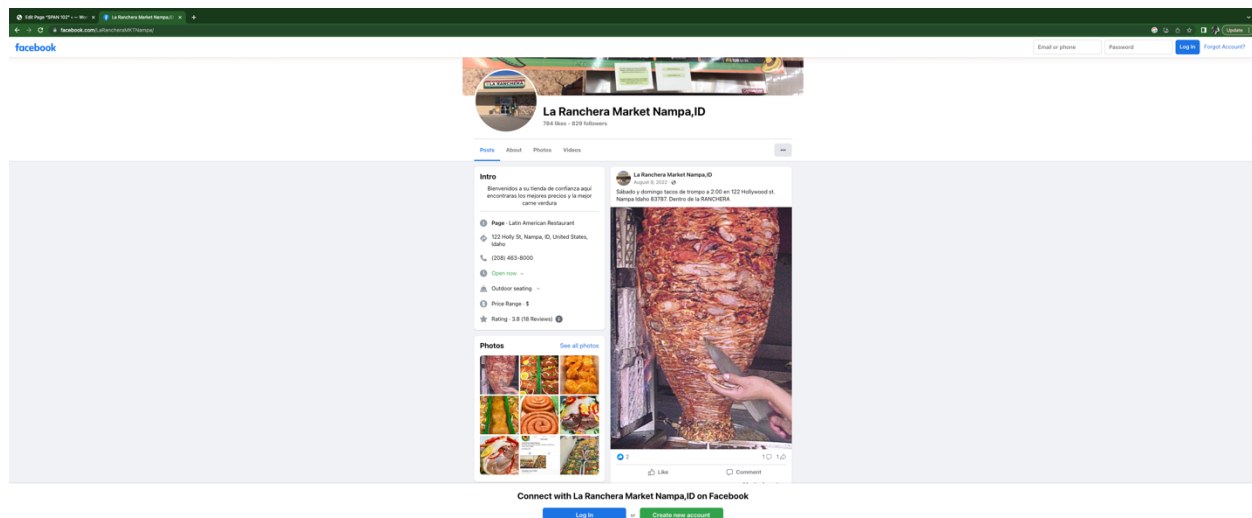


## Exploring Culture

One of the biggest things that has helped me with the Spanish language and culture has been watching movies and shows in that language and grocery shopping in ethnic food stores. These are daily activities that were already in my typical schedule I just decided to incorporate more Spanish into my life. The labels in the grocery store make it easy to read and identify each item all while testing my knowledge and while watching TV, I can have subtitles on. In this way, I was able to relate myself and my culture to the Hispanic culture with the foods and meals I would cook. They did not really challenge my worldview as I am aware of the different ingredients that are local to that area and environment.

As far as exploring the culture, I will be traveling to Mexico at the end of the month, so I will be able to explore the culture hands on and taste and live in that environment.



*This is a Hispanic grocery store near my house had serves the best food at affordable prices.*

## Engaging in Communities

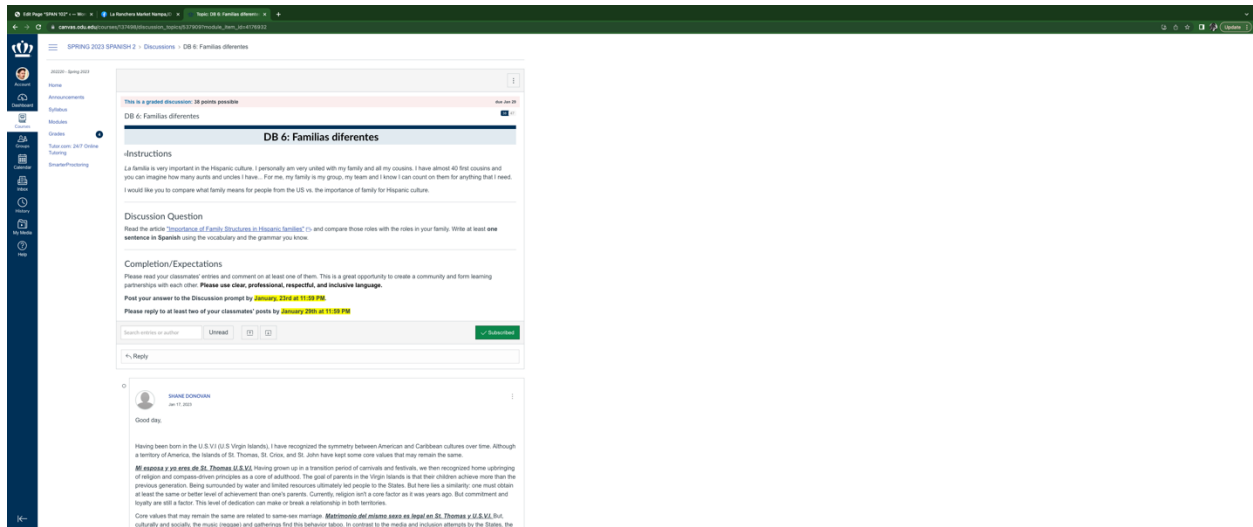
There is tremendous value and importance in engaging in my immediate communities but also on a global scale. For my immediate community, this would include my friends, family, and neighbors to my colleagues and students. I participate in local government and with our HOA. As far as local communities and giving back, I created a fundraises called Gorilla up Fight Night that donates 100% of the funds raised to our student athletes to help them cover any costs for competition and tournaments, including travel, meals and any missed work expenses that may arise when participating in the sport. This is everyone from children to our professional athletes that go on to fight in the larger leagues such as Bellator and UFC.



*Bellator 295 in Honolulu, Hawaii with professional MMA fighter Veta Artega.*

### **Interpersonal Communication**

I actually really enjoyed the Discussion Boards in this course as they were educational and not too stressful as far as testing my Spanish knowledge. I was able to learn a lot about the Spanish culture, everything from medicine, typical jobs and most participated sports. The Talk Abroads made it much more personal because I got to apply the general discussion boards we've had in the course to a single individual. With each assignment, I gained more knowledge about the culture and language, and became more comfortable with myself speaking.



*My favorite DB was DB 6: Familias diferentes because I felt like I got to know my classmates*

## Presentation Speaking

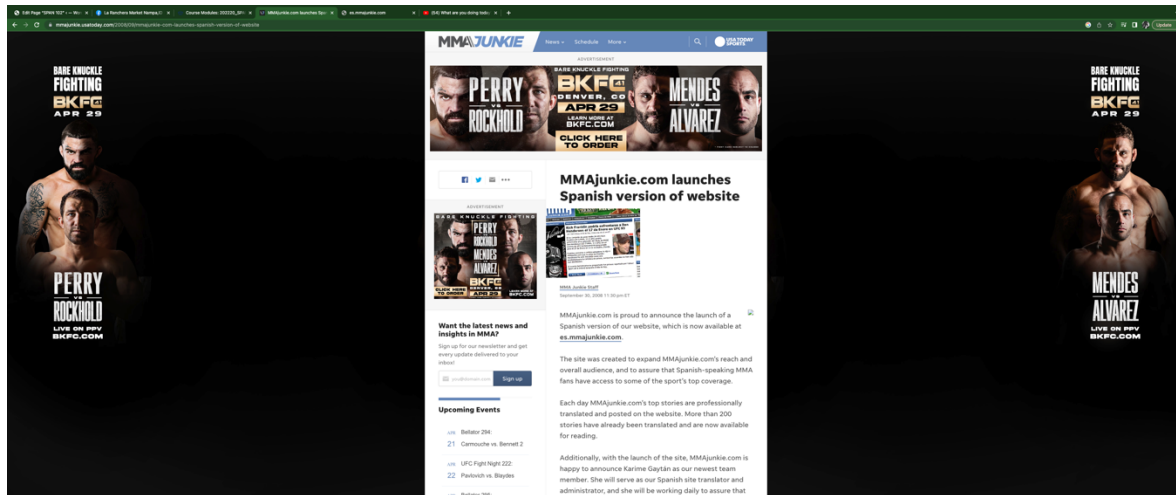
Most of my presentational speaking activities in this course came from Talk Abroad and speaking with the instructor. The textbook did have some speaking sections but I could never get feedback as to how I was truly doing. So although I was speaking Spanish, I felt like I could be saying anything, because it was only a machine on the other end recording me speak.

One of my biggest challenges was the speed of conversation. It was a total game changer from doing written work and textbook work to jumping into a full on real life conversation. Another hurdle of mine is doing it on camera. It's already uncomfortable enough having to speak a language you aren't comfortable with, but then seeing yourself on camera is a different form of self evaluation. Now that the course is over, I feel like I can learn Spanish at my own pace, in my own setting preference and be more comfortable. School and doing it knowing you're getting a grade for how you perform is beyond stressful.

## Presentation Writing

First of all, I have to mention the difficulty of this class as far as technology and administration goes. For the template to be used for Talk Abroad, it is a Google document that was created by someone that is not editable or very difficult to on a Mac. The Google doc doesn't download properly and then you cannot work it in Word or PDF form and I had to mess with the format for almost 3 hours to make it legible To be honest, the more work I seem to do for these Spanish Courses, the more I get confused. I enjoyed the Talk Abroad because I was able to interact with an actual human from a foreign country and test my skills. I didn't appreciate having to pay more money out of pocket after having already paid for a textbook and the course, but it is what it is. The difficulties of this course have never been overcome. I am still struggling. This classwork felt predominately more writing focused than speaking or talking.

One of my favorite websites, MMAJunkie.com launched a Spanish version of their website that I frequent often.



These activities are not really difficult for me as I try to do them for enjoyment and not force myself to be in study mode. By knowing what the articles say in English I am able to piece the pieces of the puzzle together when it comes to it being in Spanish.

(Staff, 2008)

## Bibliography

Spanish, E. (n.d.). What are you doing today? Easy Spanish 186.

Staff, M. J. (2008, September 30). *MMAjunkie.com launches Spanish version of website*. Retrieved from MMAJunkie: <https://mmajunkie.usatoday.com/2008/09/mmajunkie-com-launches-spanish-version-of-website>