Appendices: Chapter Eleven

Developing Intercultural Communicative Competence via Video-Based Synchronous Communication among L2 French Learners
Virginie Cassidy and Hongying Xu

APPENDIX 11.1

The following is a screenshot of the interface of the Boomalang platform (www.boomalang.co, last accessed July 24, 2019) seen from a student’s perspective. The big screen shows the native speaker, and the smaller screen in the lower right corner shows the student. A profile of the conversation partner is listed on the right side.
Journaling Questions

Please respond thoroughly to each of the following questions in English. To receive full credits, you must complete the assignment, including detailed answers, by the due date.

1. Is there a moment during your conversation when you noticed that what you said had an impact on your conversation partner? If yes, please describe a) the scenario and b) the impact on your partner and c) explain what you would do differently if you encounter a similar scenario in the future.

2. From today’s conversation, what differences across languages—including body language—and cultures have you noticed? Please give specific examples.

3. What are reactions to these differences, especially when the differences did not conform to what you originally believe?

4. Considering the discussion topic of this session, have you noticed any differences in your partner’s and your own perspectives? Can you explain why or why not?

5. What are your other observations on your experience about this conversation?

6. Focusing on your language skills, how would you describe your experience discussing online with a native speaker? Identify what might 1) be challenging and 2) be rewarding in your future experiences.
CONVERSATION TOPICS & GROUP DISCUSSION PROMPTS

CONVERSATION 1 – THEMES: Geography / French Regions / Francophone World / Spoken (familiar) French

- **Conversarion Topic**: Vous rencontrez votre partenaire pour la première fois, présentez-vous, et posez des questions pour mieux la/le connaître. La conversation doit durer quinze minutes.

- **Group Discussion Prompt**: How was your conversation with your CP? 1) What did you learn about them? 2) Have you noticed if your CP used any “familiar” French or unknown expressions, abbreviations (verlan) used by youngsters? How did you know? 3) Write down at least three observations from your group conversation to share.

CONVERSATION 2 – THEMES: Regional Accents / Identity

- **Conversation Topic**: De quelle région (du monde, et de votre pays) venez-vous ? Comment est-ce que vos origines géographiques ont une influence sur votre personnalité, vos goûts, vos activités, et votre identité ?

- **Group Discussion Prompt**: How was your conversation with your CP? 1) How did your partner view the role of his/her regional roots in the construction of his/her identity? 2) In your group, compare and contrast your views and their views on this topic. 3) Write down at least three observations from your group conversation to share.
Conversation 3 – Themes: Traditions / Celebrations: Weddings

- **Conversation Topic:** Avez-vous déjà assisté à un mariage ? Partagez vos expériences. Selon vous, quelle est la place du mariage dans votre pays ? Quelles sont les coutumes, les traditions concernant le mariage dans votre culture ?

- **Group Discussion Prompt:** 1) Compare and contrast the marriage ceremonies and the traditions in your culture and those of your partner’s. 2) Write down at least three observations from your group conversation to share.

Conversation 4 – Themes: Sports / Leisure Activities

- **Conversation Topic:** Quels sont vos loisirs ? Quel(s) sport(s) est-ce que vous pratiquez ? Qu’est-ce que vous faites avec vos ami.e.s ? Comment se distraient les jeunes de votre pays/région ?

- **Group Discussion Prompt:** 1) Compare and contrast what young people do for fun. 2) What is the place of sport in your partner’s culture and in your own? 3) Write down at least three observations from your group conversation to share.

Conversation 5 – Theme: Education

- **Conversation Topic:** Expliquez le système éducatif de votre pays. Quels en sont les points forts et les points faibles ? Comment est-ce que votre éducation scolaire influence votre identité ?

- **Group Discussion Prompt:** 1) Report on your discussion with your partner: How can you compare and contrast the discussed educational systems and experiences? 2) What is the place of sport and education in your partner’s culture ? Compare it with your own. 3) Write down at least three observations from your group conversation to share.
Conversation 6 – Theme: Comic Books

- **Conversation Topic:** Connaissez-vous des bandes dessinées américaines ou francophones ? Lesquelles préférez-vous ? Est-ce que ce genre est populaire dans votre culture ?

- **Group Discussion Prompt:** 1) Report on your discussion with your partner: What can you tell about the place of comic books in your own and your partner’s culture? 2) Write down at least three observations from your group conversation to share.

Conversation 7 – Theme: Traditional Celebrations and Festivals

- **Conversation Topic:** Quelles sont les fêtes traditionnelles de votre pays/région ? En quoi consistent-elles ? Est-ce qu’il y a des fêtes qui n’existent que dans votre pays/région ? (i.e., La fête de la musique en France)

- **Group Discussion Prompt:** 1) Report on your discussion with your partner: What can you tell about the origins of the various celebrations? 2) Write down at least three observations from your group conversation to share.

Conversation 8 – Theme: Free Topic & Good-byes

- **Group Discussion Prompt:** 1) What were the different strings of conversation you had with your partner for this last meeting? 2) Share your overall experience with the video chatting activities throughout the semester. Would you like to continue such activities? Why / Why not? 3) Write down at least three observations from your group conversation to share.