

# What is Secret and Beautiful in Your Country? by Roger Dupuy

## Introduction

There are so many 'presentation' assignments where a student is asked to share about a cultural feature in their country. Often what happens is that after a while you get the same 'touristy' kinds of content. "This is the Eiffel Tower, and in France it is really....".

*Ho hum.*

I decided to re-package this presentation assignment with a little tweak that hopefully elicits much better, more interesting, useful content that both the students and the teacher could enjoy.

I was inspired to do this after reading over an article by Donald W. George called, "The Way of Iced Coffee". It details the ritualized experience of ordering ice coffee in a cafe in Japan. What occurred to me was even though it was a vivid description of a simple and small event, it was extremely enjoyable. It was the wonderful combination of sound, sight, smell, touch and taste that captured my imagination and made this a timeless cultural event. Even more, it's a very personal and even secret event.



## "Something secret and beautiful."

When I lead my students into this thinking, I start seeing them go through all the little wonderful experiences they have gone through that makes their country special. Gone are the standard speeches of overused tourist spots. Now they share a story of a 'hole-in-a wall' seafood restaurant where the tiger shrimp overlooking a portion of a night-lit river are exquisite.

Here is the lesson I put together...enjoy and let me know what you think:(see student sheet).

This presentation needs to be 5-10 minutes long. Feel free to use your own grading rubric, but please consider adding some if not all of the elements below to your grading:

## Speech Checklist Suggestions:

1. Did you write on the board? No Yes, but just a little bit. Yes, and it was good.
2. Did you use note cards? No Yes
3. Did you give a warm greeting? No Yes
4. Did you avoid talking about a stereotype? No Yes
5. On a Scale of 1 to 10, how well did you use descriptive details? (a '1' means not great at all and a '10' means the best) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
6. How well did you elaborate? 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
7. Did you give a warm farewell? No Yes
8. How long was it? Less than 5, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, More than 10 minutes.