



INTRO 103 - Introduce Yourself in Your Language

Name:

INTRODUCTION

Language is the foundation of a culture. For Indigenous oral societies, words hold knowledge amassed for millennia. A language also holds the stories, songs, dances, protocols, family histories and connections. Languages also often hold the community's customary laws that were eroded by the policies of the *Indian Act*. As many communities move towards a return to self-government, this loss of laws and systems of governance means some communities don't have that knowledge to draw upon.

When a language dies so does the link to the cultural and historical past. Without that crucial connection to their linguistic and cultural history, people lose their sense of identity and belonging.

There are currently many efforts to revitalize Indigenous languages and ensure the passing down of knowledge, from generation to generation. This is also a form of healing, after the effects of the Residential School System and other forms of oppression endured by Indigenous Peoples.

ACTIVITY

Introduce yourself in your Indigenous language and record it using audio or video recording. The introduction can be reflective of your Indigenous ancestry, community or current place or location of residence. If you don't know the words to introduce yourself, connect with a family member, community member, Elder, traditional knowledge keeper, etc., and ask them to teach you. You can also do research online to learn the words and find videos to help you with the pronunciation. For some Indigenous languages, there are a variety of online resources available, for others, there are only a handful of speakers able to teach and pass the knowledge on. Do the best you can and use whatever resources you have available. We have shared a brief list of language resources below for you to explore.

Your introduction should include:

- your name
- clan (if applicable)
- where you are from
- family (parents, guardians and/or grandparents) (if applicable)

Upload your video or audio recording of your introduction for full credit.

LANGUAGE RESOURCES

- [Ojibwe](#)
- [Blackfoot](#)
- [Mohawk](#)
- [Inuktituk](#)
- [Michif](#)
- [Mi'Kmaq](#)
- [Atikamekw](#)
- [Haida](#)
- [Cree](#)