Longwood University Practicum in Spain  
Pre-departure Journal Entries

During the Spring semester, you will receive a packet of handouts that we will be using over the semester, and at our meetings we will cover very important info on the following:

- the practicum requirements and activities
- the places we will be visiting
- strategies for using Spanish at homestays and in Valencia
- travel details and policies, packing info, what to pack, what not to pack
- emergency info, safety info, behavior info
- getting the most from living with a host family, strategies
- how to get around Valencia
- accessing your money while abroad—do’s and don’ts
- cellphones or no cellphones, internet use, laptops or no laptops
- electrical appliances (like hair dryers)
- medical insurance, what to do if you get sick, etc.
- how family can contact you while abroad
- how to get along with everyone in the group for a month
- write a letter in Spanish to introduce yourself to your host family; include a picture. We will send the letters in April.

**First Journal entry (January):** Let us know:

1. What are your expectations regarding your upcoming experience in Spain? What do you think the school will be like, the students, the homestay, the beach?

2. How do you think this experience will be different/beneficial and how might it influence your future differently than a similar experience in the US?

3. Think about these scenarios and tell us what you would do if...
   a. What if I get lost in Valencia while shopping or going to the beach?
   b. What if I can’t say what I want to say because I don’t know enough Spanish?

4. Bring your 3 copies of the info page of your passport to this meeting.

**Second Journal entry (February):**

1. Click around on the Caxton College website and write about the aspects of the school that you find most attractive, or exceptional, or different from US schools. What are you most looking forward to? What are you apprehensive about?

2. Think about these scenarios and tell us what you would do if...
   a. What if I get sick while in Valencia?
   b. What if I miss the school bus?
   c. What if I can’t understand what someone is telling me, like my host-mom or the bus driver?

3. Prepare your resume and introduction letter to send to the principal at Caxton. Type.
Third Journal entry (March 11):
1. Click around on the website http://www.longwood.edu/staff/goetzla/practicumspain/ and find several places in Valencia you would like to see while you are there. Write a journal entry about these places, why they interest you, and how you might be able to use these sites or activities as a teacher in your future classes.

2. Think about these scenarios and tell us what you would do if...
   a. What if I meet a cute guy in a bar and he wants to take me somewhere to dance?
   b. What if my roommate gets drunk and wants to leave the bar with the cute guy?
   c. What if I get really drunk (or if my friend gets really drunk)?

Fourth Journal entry (March 20):
1. Search the internet to find info about Lisbon, especially the places in our itinerary, and write a journal entry about which places interest you most, and how you might be able to use these sites or activities as a teacher in your future classes.

2. Think about these scenarios and tell us what you would do if...
   a. What if one of us gets drunk and is disruptive during the trip to Lisbon? What if the hotel manager has to wake up the professors to report disruptive behavior disturbing other guests?
   b. What if a group of us is shopping in the tourist district in Lisbon, and we forget how to get back to the hotel?
   c. What if, after shopping and having dinner in the tourist area in Lisbon, a group of thugs knocks down some in our group and steals a purse and runs? (How can I avoid this in the first place?) (What do we do if it does happen?)

Fifth Journal Entry (April 3):
1. Think about these scenarios and tell us what you would do if...
   a. What if I lose my passport while in Valencia? What if I lose it in Portugal? What if I lose it the day before returning to the US (in Segovia)?
   b. What do I say when I meet my host mom for the first time? Plan and write your "dialog" EN ESPAÑOL for that moment. Then practice saying it! Be prepared to act this out during the meeting.

2. Plan your strategy for buying a 10-ride bus ticket ("bonobús"). Write a "dialog" EN ESPAÑOL for you and the clerk, and practice saying it!
3. Compose a letter in Spanish to your host family. Introduce yourself, tell a little about your family, your studies, or whatever you think appropriate. Express your feelings about meeting them soon and being in Spain. It should be most of a page. It should be typed. If possible, include a picture of you and your family or you and your friends. Or just you! Bring your letter to the meeting and we will share the letters in groups and advise each other on corrections. Remember the tips for doing a good job! After working on the corrections, you will turn them in again, and we will mail them.

4. Be getting to know your new roomie(s)! Contact them/him/her at least several times before the April 17 meeting to do something together.

Sixth Journal Entry (April 17):

1. Practice your “dialog” again for meeting your host mom for the first time. Out loud! Practice your strategy again for buying a 10-ride bus ticket (“bonobús”). Out loud!

2. Go through the Practicum Manual and set up a plan for all of your requirements. Be familiar with the questions you will be researching at the school.

3. Make revisions and corrections to your letter to your host family. Choose a picture to include, so your family can begin to get to know you before you arrive. During our meeting we will share the letters in groups and make last-minute corrections. Then we will mail them! Bring an envelope!