Checklist for a COIL Project Introduction

Strong Foundation:

This checklist ensures your COIL project presentation gets off to a great start by covering the essential information students need to understand the project fully.

- **What is COIL?**
  Provide a clear and concise definition of Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL). Explain what it entails for students, including online interaction, collaborative learning activities, and cultural exchange with their international peers.

- **Who Participates?**
  Specify the student groups involved from both universities. Briefly mention the size of the groups, their academic disciplines, and any relevant course titles associated with the COIL project.

Expanding the Context:

To truly engage your students and prepare them for a successful COIL experience, consider incorporating these additional points:

What to Expect Working in an Intercultural International Collaboration:

- Explain the advantages and challenges of working in a team with students from a different cultural background.
- Discuss communication strategies that can help students overcome potential language barriers and cultural misunderstandings.
- Briefly mention some collaborative online tools that can facilitate communication and teamwork across borders.

What are the Cultural/Historic/Geopolitical Differences in Countries of the Collaboration?:

- Briefly highlight some key cultural, historical, and geopolitical differences between the participating countries.
- Explain how these differences might influence student perspectives and approaches to the project.
- Emphasize the value of learning from these differences and fostering intercultural understanding.

What are the Career Benefits from Doing COIL?:

- Explain how COIL participation can enhance students' resumes and make them more competitive in the job market.
- Highlight the development of valuable skills such as intercultural communication, teamwork in a virtual environment, and critical thinking in a global context.
- Briefly mention specific career fields where these skills are highly sought after.

By addressing these additional points, you can provide a more comprehensive picture of the COIL project and prepare your students for a rewarding and enriching international learning experience.

Enhancing Engagement:

Go beyond the basics and create a connection with your audience:

- **Personal Touch:** Add a sentence or two about your passion for a specific field related to the COIL project, like nursing or global health challenges. This humanizes your introduction and allows students to connect with you on a personal level.
- **Cultural Connection:** Building on the personal touch, share something you enjoy about Colombian culture or Medellin, the city you're from. This can spark student interest and create a bridge between the two participating institutions.

Leveraging a Photo:

A photo can be a powerful tool to personalize your introduction:

- **Image Relevance:** Choose a photo that reinforces your background. An image of you in a professional setting like a hospital or university works well.
- **Cultural Connection:** Alternatively, a photo showcasing a scenic location in Medellin allows you to introduce your city and create a cultural bridge with the Australian students.

Remember:

The goal is to create a clear, concise, and engaging introduction that sets the stage for a successful COIL project presentation.