Demonstrate: Online Portfolio System for Language Learning  
Project Ideas  
http://dev.llc.msu.edu/demonstrate/

There are many ways in which you can use this tool. Below are some ideas that you can adapt or use as inspiration for your own class assignments and projects!

All levels - Formative Assessment  
Have student post audio recordings and writings weekly or biweekly. You can either give them specific topics or let them choose from a few topics for their recordings and writings. Make sure they have deadlines for these as well as rough guidelines as to length and content.

Give them regular feedback on these assignments and track if they are doing them on time and following the guidelines. Tell them they are responsible for CAREFULLY reviewing your feedback so they can improve themselves. At the end of the semester, have the students do a self-evaluation that forces them to review their work and your feedback, and have them write a reflective paragraph or paper on what they think their strengths and weaknesses are. Their grade should reflect if they are regularly doing the assignments per the guidelines and on time as well as their final reflections.

Beginner - “All About” personal portfolios  
Example: All about me  
Ideas of things to include:

1. A recording of yourself introducing yourself.
2. A short video that shows your room, your town, your home, etc. Describe a few things in the video.
3. A paragraph about your family OR Include pictures of them and write 3-4 sentences describing each of them.
4. A paragraph about your friends OR Include pictures of them and write 3-4 sentences describing each of them.
5. Pictures of things that symbolize other important parts of your life: related to your school, your future career, your hobbies, your goals etc. Write one sentence for each picture explaining its importance/relevance.

Beginner - City project  
Choose a city you know and like, or one you want to learn about.  
Example: All about Mexico City  
Ideas of things to include:

1. A short paragraph introducing the city.
2. A recording of a made-up (student writes it!) weather report for the city.
3. Pictures of famous landmarks of the city. Include a sentence describing each one.
**Beginner- Holiday project**
Choose a holiday from the target country that you want to learn about.

**Example: All about Mexico City**

**Ideas of things to include:**
1. A short paragraph introducing the holiday
2. A word document of interview questions about the holiday.
3. A recording of a short interview with a native speaker about the holiday.

**Intermediate- Research projects**

All about XXX country, city, etc. Choose a place you know and like, or one you want to learn about.

**Example: All about Mexico City**

**Ideas of things to include:**
4. A recording introducing the city. Tell about the first time you visited the city.
5. Pictures of landmarks and important places. Describe each one. Include in each description a link to a website in the target language that has more detailed information on the site.
6. A power point presentation outlining important historical events in the city
7. A letter to a friend suggesting how they spend the 1-week vacation that they will have in Mexico City.
8. An MP3 of music that is typical for music from Mexico City. Summarize what the song is about in a few sentences.
9. An interview with someone who is from this city. Record the interview and upload it.

**Intermediate- Sales project.**
Think of a project that students can sell. They can create graphic/print advertisements, radio commercials, testimonials, etc.

**Examples:** Can be serious or fictitious/humorous: “Study Arabic at MSU”! Or “New Pill that Makes You Instantly Fluent in Persian!”

**Ideas of things to include:**
1. An advertisement you designed (on paper then scanned as a PDF or with software if they are good at technology).
2. A student “testimonial” or radio advertisements recorded as an audio file. Students can also submit scripts for their advertisements as Word documents.
3. A student-created short TV commercial recorded as a digital video. (This could be done in pairs.)

**Intermediate- Reading Journals**

**Ideas of things to include:**
Have students read weekly. Based on their readings, have them post a few assignments to their online reading portfolio each week.

**Ideas of things to include:**
1. A word document with a vocabulary log from their readings
2. Short oral summaries of what they read, or verbally respond to a discussion question based on their reading.

**Intermediate- Picture Stories**
Have students take pictures of 5 different things around campus or their environment. Make sure they include at least one person, one place, and one thing. These pictures will serve as inspiration for a short story that they write. The story must include each item.

**Ideas of things to include:**
3. The pictures and a short introduction of each one. Example: This is Fred. He is a student at MSU. This is a duck that bit Fred by the river one day. Etc.
4. A Word document that shows an outline of the story and 5 new vocabulary words that the student will use in the story.
5. A recording of the student telling the story.

**Intermediate/Advanced – Native Speakers Interview project**
Students interview native speakers about an aspect of their culture.

**Ideas of things to include:**
1. The interview questions that the student wrote.
2. A copy of the email they sent to the person setting up the interview / introducing themselves (in the target language).
3. A recording of the interview.
4. A vocabulary log of words that they learned from the interview.
5. A recording of them summarizing (video or audio) what they learned OR a paper summarizing it.

**Intermediate/Advanced- Culinary presentations**
Have students do research about a popular and culturally important food. They must include the background on the food (When is it eaten? Why? Etc), the recipe in the target language and in English, and a video demonstration on how to make the food.

**Ideas of things to include:**
1. The recipe in English and in the target language.
2. A photo of the food.
3. A paragraph describing the food and its cultural significance.
4. A video of the food being made (like on a cooking show).
5. An interview (audio recorded) of them asking someone in the target country about when they eat this food and how it is prepared.

**Advanced - Literature project**
Students read short stories or poems by a single author, or perhaps a short novel and include related content in their portfolio.

**Ideas of things to include:**
1. Weekly reading journals (not summaries!) Provide students with questions and topics related to the reading to stimulate their thoughts on the readings and not just write summaries.
2. A copy of the email they sent to the person setting up the interview / introducing themselves (in the target language).
3. A recording of the interview.
4. A vocabulary log of words that they learned from the interview.
5. A recording of them summarizing what they learned OR a paper summarizing it.

**Peer Review:**
All of the above ideas can be used along with peer review: Student can be assigned to look at a few of their classmates’ portfolios. They can use the “feedback” function to provide their classmate with detailed feedback. This is best done if you provide a few guiding questions:
1. What do you like best about the portfolio?
2. What would you improve about their portfolio?
3. What was one new word that you learned?
4. What was one language mistake that you saw or heard?