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.
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:**

1. 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.
2. A Word document that shows an outline of the story and 5 new vocabulary words that the student will use in the story.
3. A recording of the student telling the story.

**Advanced - Professional Interview project**

Students interview professionals who use the language they are learning in the workplace.

**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 what they learned OR a paper summarizing it.

**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?