



## Los Padres CATESOL Fall 2009 Conference: Unlocking Creativity Presentation Abstracts



### Session 1

10:15-11:00

#### **Risk Logging: Classroom Research by Teachers**

Hilary Tomczik

What creative techniques have you ‘risked’ in class? Have you logged these risks and shared your observations with other teachers? You’ll leave this workshop with a system for logging activities used in classes over time, and a way to share observations through an online interest group. Creative ideas for two areas, pronunciation and corpora analysis will be examined.

**\*Levels:** All

#### **Techno therapy: Sharing Successes and Frustrations in Dealing with Technology in the Classroom**

Clara Bauler

Tired of trying to incorporate technology into your teaching practices? Or feeling happy about all the successes you have been having with adopting certain technological tools in your classes? When technology is involved in an educational conversation, no matter how you feel about it, there is always something interesting to share. Come and join us in this engaging discussion!

**\*Levels:** All

#### **Using Literature Circles to Empower the Reading Experience**

John Robertson

In *Literature Circles*, small groups of 3-6 students select and read the same book independently, then meet together in their “book clubs” to discuss the book and support each other’s comprehension. This workshop will highlight the budding *Literature Circles* project begun this term at Santa Barbara City College in the ESL program in levels 3-5. Attendees will participate in a brief *Literature Circle* experience before discussing how the concept is being implemented at SBCC. Participants will be encouraged to consider adopting *Literature Circles* in their own ESL curriculum.

**\*Levels:** All

#### **ESL Student Panel**

Paul Mori

Do you ever wonder what your students think about you or your teaching methods? Now is your chance to ask current ESL students from various programs and schools what they think about many different issues and topics.

#### **Creative Ideas for Checking Homework**

Ingrid Bowman

As teachers, we assign various kinds of homework tasks throughout a course. How do we check it? Are we encouraging learner interaction and autonomy? The purpose of this workshop is to explore these questions. Participants will leave with creative ideas for making post-homework more productive. This workshop addresses classroom management issues and is appropriate for all levels, especially language classes that use textbooks and wish to rediscover the simple delights of homework.

**\*Levels:** All

### **Teaching in a Multi-level Classroom**

Sarah Lynn (Pearson-Longman)

How can a teacher manage multiple levels in today's ESL classroom? This presentation begins by examining the ways in which students in the adult education population vary. The presentation then explores simple and efficient ways to maximize students' learning by directing and focusing collaborative learning, and by using a variety of learning activities. By strategically matching students, assigning appropriate task roles, tweaking activities in small ways, and using a curriculum rich in visual and auditory material, the teacher can create a dynamic classroom in which every student is engaged and successful.

**\*Levels:** Adult, IEP

## **Session 2**

**11:15-12:00**

### **Increasing Vocabulary Using Technology**

Anita Linton (Oxford University Press)

The *Oxford Picture Dictionary Program, Second Edition*, features two new, exciting technology components: an interactive CD-ROM for students and an interactive Classroom Presentation Tool for teachers. See each component presented and how both help students increase their active vocabulary in and out of the classroom.

**\*Levels:** Adult, Secondary, Community College, IEP

### **Unlocking Creativity through Online Forums: Activities for Moodle and Blog Users**

Clara Bauler

Running out of ideas on how to use technology interactively and creatively in your language classrooms? This workshop will take you through all the steps in planning, creating, and applying engaging, meaningful, and collaborative online forums on Moodle and/or Blogs.

**\*Levels:** All

### **Telephone Skills for Beginning Language Learners**

Cassie Koop

Do your students start sweating when they have to use the telephone? Telephone skills are extremely challenging for language learners and are often addressed at higher levels. Yet beginning students use the telephone in their everyday lives. In this demonstration/workshop, participants will explore the linguistic and cultural challenges of using the telephone and learn basic activities to improve students' telephone confidence.

Participants will walk away with practical ideas that can be used across the four skills.

**\*Levels:** Adult, Community College, IEP

### **Using Extensive Reading to Engage Reluctant Readers**

Deborah Gordon

Many ESL students profess to dislike reading in their own languages, let alone in English. The presenter has found that through the use of extensive reading, she has been successful in helping students to overcome this prejudice, and to change their reading habits. The presenter will demonstrate how she uses extensive reading not only to get students to read, but to derive pleasure from reading. Please come ready to share your own experiences, as well.

**\*Levels:** Community College, University, Adult, IEP

### **Games Teachers Play**

Ed McBride

Learning language should be fun. The presenter will show ways to engage students and liven up your classroom with games, mixers, teamwork tasks and other communicative activities. The presenter will demonstrate instructional strategies and activities that get students talking, help build classroom community, increase attendance and make learning fun.

**\*Levels:** Adult, Community College, University, IEP, English in the Workplace

### **Employers' Panel and Interview Tips: Opportunities in Santa Barbara and Ventura**

Andrew Harper and local employers

A panel of representatives from local ESL programs will present a description of their programs, addressing topics such as their students, their curriculum, enrollment, seasonal variations in enrollment, job prospects for teachers and the best time to apply, and special programs. After each panelist has spoken, members of the audience will be invited to ask questions.

## **Session 3**

**1:15-2:00**

### **Everyday Techniques for more Effective Classes: Choral work, Drilling, Questioning, Comprehension checking**

Bonnie Blakley

Learn techniques for effective and fun choral work, for how to ask questions in a way that ensures success and reduces stress among students, and for comprehension checking. We'll also discuss how much we should use choral work and comprehension checking. You'll have an opportunity to share your favorite and most successful techniques.

**\*Levels:** Adult, IEP, Community College, General

### **Lights, Camera, Action: Helping Students Create Their own Video**

Kari Tudman

In this session, the presenters will demonstrate from start to finish how to create a student video in a multi-skills classroom. From brainstorming and storyboarding to filming and editing, the presenters will show how community college ESL students made their own video and participants will view completed projects. This presentation would be appropriate for any language level.

**\*Levels:** Adult, Community College, General

### **Editing with Creativity: Bringing Writing Feedback back into the Classroom**

Randy Rightmire

What do ESL writers learn as they revise their papers? Do they understand their teachers' corrections and comments? Can they take the grammar and editing rules that we teach them and independently apply them to a self-editing task? In this demonstration, the presenter will show how writing feedback can be blended into a classroom lesson, not just as a take-home assignment or an addition to the "circular file." Writing feedback lessons at the beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels will be demonstrated.

### **Expressive Pronunciation for Asian Students: A Musician's take on Pitch**

Paul Mori

Ever caught yourself saying to your students, "say it again, but this time more *expressively*," and then hear it exactly the same as before? What's a teacher to do with monotone-like speech patterns and just why do Asians especially have these kinds of problems? How do you fix these patterns and habits? Learn a music teacher's perspective on pitch and expression, and take home some easy and practical exercises that can quickly help these students.

## **Session 4**

2:15-3:00

### **Predictably Unpredictable: Moving Forward Despite Erratic Attendance**

Sarah Lynn (Pearson Longman)

How does a teacher keep the class moving forward when students arrive late, leave early, or stop out for several weeks? This hands-on presentation will explore techniques for maintaining the cohesion and momentum of your class. The presenter will talk about welcoming late comers with minimal disruption, organizing and storing old handouts and homework assignments, explicitly teaching students how to communicate their education needs, and encouraging a strong connection within the classroom community. The presenter will also address how to foster independent learning skills and organization in our students so they can continue with their learning even when they stop out of school for a while.

### **Unlocking Creativity through Online Forums: Activities for Moodle and Blog Users**

Clara Bauler

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\*Levels: All

### **Connecting Textbooks to Real Life**

Sachiko Oates

Why are your students learning English? If your answer is 'to use it in the real world,' come and join us to discuss and share some creative ideas to connect what students learn in their textbooks to their lives in the real world. The presentation includes easy-to-prepare project and activity ideas, student work examples, group discussion and idea sharing with other participants.

### **Health Insurance Options: Learn what you need to Know—Get Answers to your questions**

Judith Tanaka

## **Session 5**

3:15-4:00

### **Level Rap sessions—discussion groups**

Meet with teachers who teach the same level as you to discuss problems, ideas, issues.