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Vol II, Issue 14
April 1, 2008

ESOL TAPAS

TEACHING AND PROFESSIONAL APPETIZERS

Citizenship Backlog - Extended Hours No Mistake!

Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), a Homeland Security Department agency, has begun holding the interviews — the final step before taking the citizenship oath — on Saturdays and Sundays and after business hours on weekdays. In the interviews, done by appointment only, immigrants take their citizenship test and answer any lingering questions about their applications.

The agency received 1.4 million naturalization applications in the 2007 fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, overwhelming agency workers and extending the time it takes to become a citizen. Nearly half a million applications arrived just before the fee to apply to be an American increased from \$330 to \$595, plus an \$80 fingerprinting fee.

The agency has responded that the July 2007 spike was unprecedented, and it has been taking steps to deal with the increase. Emilio Gonzalez, the agency's outgoing director, wrote in a blog item posted late Thursday that more than half of all the citizenship applications received in June and July of last year will be done by Sept. 30. He said some who applied after July have become citizens. His agency is predicting 14-to-16 month waits for citizenship.

LIBRARY RESOURCES

Magazines & Journals!

The Northeast ABLE Resource Center library has oodles of periodicals with great instructional ideas. Titles include:

TESOL Quarterly, ESL Magazine, Language Magazine, Essential Teacher, Hands-on English, Adult Basic and Literacy Journal and the Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy

To reserve a periodical visit www.neablelibrary.org. Click on "Recommendations" in the menu on the left to view available issues.

FREE Web RESOURCES!

1. **Seussville Story Maker**
www.seussville.com/games/storymaker/story_maker.html
2. **Connect with English** AudioVideo series
<http://www.learner.org/resources/series71.html>
3. **CultureGrams** - <http://online.culturegrams.com>.
Contact NEABLE RC at info@neable.org for login information.

International TESOL



This year's conference is this week in New York City. Whether you attend the conference or not, if you're a TESOL member you can review sessions through the Event Cast on the website at www.tesol.org.

If you can't make it to the conference this year, but want to start planning for next year take advantage of the:

Mile-High City Contest

Contribute to the TRC and you could win free lodging in Denver, Colorado and more...

As in the 2007 New York, New York Contest, all TESOL members who submit at least two resources to the TRC before June 5, 2008 can enter the TRC Mile-High City Contest. The resources submitted are subject to approval by the TRC reviewers. Members with two approved submissions will be entered in this contest.

- The first two names randomly chosen will receive **2 free nights** lodging in Denver, Colorado to attend the 2009 TESOL Convention.
- The next five names randomly chosen will receive a **\$50 credit** towards the purchase of TESOL publications of their choice.
- All eligible participants will receive a TESOL **Certificate of Appreciation**.

REMINDER!

BEST Plus Training - April 16 from 9:30 - 3:30pm

EL/Civics Meeting - April 17 from 10-12noon

OAACE Conference - April 17-18, 2008

Register on the Calendar of Events at www.ohioable.org

ESOL Question:

How useful is the **CultureGrams** program to you and your students?

The program may not be available for you after June. Please let the NE RC know your interest. If you're not using the program, contact us for the login and start today.

Email info@neable.org - Hurry. Only 3 months left!