

IN THIS ISSUE:

Issue I, Vol 3 April 4, 2007

- ▶ TESOL Convention
- ▶ Ohio Presenters' Highlights
- ▶ Web Resource
- ▶ Reviews by Jill Kramer
- ▶ TESOL Resource Center

ESOL TAPAS

TEACHING AND PROFESSIONAL APPETIZERS

TESOL

The 41st annual TESOL Convention was held this year in Seattle, Washington on March 21-24. Ohio was proud to have adult education presenters such as Gloria Gillette, Jill Kramer and Kathy Olson.

Gloria Gillette presented with Michael Jones of Homeland Security as part of the "Symposium on Adult Civics and Citizenship Education in the US." Their session was called *Helping Students Pass the Naturalization Interview* during which they explained the redesigned test and gave strategies and tips for citizenship preparation.

Jill Kramer gave a session on *Providing Leadership in Adult ESOL Programs*. Jill provided tips from her experience as a program coordinator and the participants joined in an interesting discussion on leadership and the necessity of professional development in adult Ed.

Jill reported on Kathy Olson's session entitled *Repetition: Multiple Activities Using One Reading Selection*.

Kathy Olson did a dynamic session on activities to teach reading. She shared strategies to use before reading, during reading and after reading. She stressed the need to repeat and review and to present the materials in many different ways. Kathy shared ideas for pre-reading (guessing from seeing part of the text, giving comprehension questions first, putting sentence strips in order, giving True/False statements), during reading (predicting what will happen next, note taking, making an outline) and after reading (writing a summary in 3 sentences, act out the story, role plays, matching sentences and meaning, retelling from another point of view, creating questions, highlighting text with key words, using graphic organizers).

Next year you can be a presenter at the TESOL Conference in New York! The deadline for submitting proposals is June 1, 2007. Poster Sessions and Video Theater will be accepted until August 1, 2007. www.tesol.org



WEB RESOURCE



Reading A – Z contains easy readers and phonetic awareness that can be downloaded and used for beginning ESOL students.

<http://www.readinga-z.com/newfiles/preview.html>

Reviews by Jill Kramer



I attended a session on family literacy. The National Center for Family Literacy in conjunction with the Center for Applied Linguistics have published a curriculum called "Parenting for Academic Success" available through Delta (www.delta-systems.com). The curriculum includes a Teacher Resource Manual and Parent Workbooks. The parent material is written for NRS level 3 and above. I like the fact that activities are clearly presented and that there are take home activities. Parents are encouraged to maintain and develop the first language at home while learning English to support their children at school.

Cindy Shermeyer of Delaware led a session on Listening. While many of the ideas were tried and true (bingo, dictation, listen and draw, retelling a story), some were good to hear again. We often get into a rut with class activities. Here are some listening activities to try -

1. Dictate an imaginary picture to the class. Students listen and draw the picture. Then they tell a story based on the picture.
2. A singing dictation where the teacher sings the first line and the students repeat it. Then sing the first and second line and the students repeat. Continue building up to the whole song. Then students write as much of the song as they remember. Work in pairs to revise.

Another session on Listening was sponsored by Cambridge to introduce a new listening textbook. However the author had some good points about pre-listening activities. She stressed the need to activate prior knowledge, and engage in discussion before the listening activity. Listening activities should be about 90% comprehensible in order to allow the listener to guess at the other 10 %.

I attended a session on using puppets with adult students. I was a bit skeptical but the presenter said that puppets helped shy adults talk in the class. The puppet takes the focus off the student. I could imagine using puppets to present a dialog or to add a little fun to the class.

TESOL Resource Center

This is an online resource center where members of TESOL can find and submit their own resources. There are lesson plans, activities, practical tips, papers and even presentations to peruse. Go to www.tesol.org/resourcecenter to learn more!

There's even an opportunity to earn free lodging in New York for next year's conference!

Stay tuned!

*The next issue will have more from the TESOL Convention as well
as an overview of the new Citizenship test.*