

IN THIS ISSUE:

- ▶ Welcome to FY2009
- ▶ Holidays
- ▶ Constitution Day
- ▶ BEST Tests
- ▶ Library Resources for Constitution Day
- ▶ Professional Development

Vol III, Issue 1  
September 2, 2008

# ESOL TAPAS

TEACHING AND PROFESSIONAL APPETIZERS

## Welcome Back Issue

Welcome to a new year! This year we look forward to exciting transitions including the release of the redesigned Naturalization Test and ABLE's transfer to the Board of Regents when we officially become part of the University System of Ohio.

Today marks the beginning of Ramadan, a month of fasting for Muslims, and may involve your student(s). For a listing of holidays for 2008 visit [www.infoplease.com/year/calendar-2008.html](http://www.infoplease.com/year/calendar-2008.html) or consult the Earth Calendar at [www.earthcalendar.net/index.php](http://www.earthcalendar.net/index.php) for a full listing.

September 17 is Constitution Day!

The Byrd Amendment requires that schools receiving federal funds teach the Constitution on this day. The following websites will help you find interesting and fun activities for your students including lesson plans, handouts and videos: [www.justicelearning.org/TeachingMaterials.aspx](http://www.justicelearning.org/TeachingMaterials.aspx), [www.elcivics.com/constitution\\_civics\\_1 - 20](http://www.elcivics.com/constitution_civics_1-20) or <http://webs.rtc.edu/ii/elcivics.html#ConstitutionDay>.

## BEST Plus and BEST Literacy - discounted tests!

The Northeast ABLE Resource Center has BEST Plus and BEST Literacy tests available for purchase at a reduced rate. BEST Literacy Forms B, C and D are available. The pricing is as follows:

BEST Plus Tests (Computer-adaptive) \$0.90

BEST Literacy Tests (Forms B, C, D) \$1.50

-includes Test Booklet and Score Sheet

Please see attached order form for full details; also available on the website under ESOL/Assessment. If you wish to order tests, please complete the form and either fax, mail or email the form to the Resource Center.



If you have not received your program's copy of the new *BEST Literacy Test Manual*, please contact the Resource Center. They are free, complimentary of the Center.

## Constitution Day Library Resources

*American Civics: The Congress; Elections, The Presidency and the Supreme Court.* This is an easy-to-read class set of 6 books for each title including a teacher's resource book. It comes in a book holder which can be displayed in your classroom.

*Our Nation.* This set of 15 easy-to-read paperback books includes a teacher's guide with activity sheets for every title. Sample titles are: *The American Flag, Voting and Elections* and *The Lincoln Memorial*.

*Celebrating American Heroes; Plays for Students of English.* Engage your whole class as they participate in a play about Betsy Ross and George Washington in *Making the American Flag* or any of the other twelve short plays about heroic Americans by Cleveland's own Anne Siebert. The teacher's guide includes reproducible activities in pronunciation practice, comprehension, vocabulary, grammar, conversation and writing. A class set of 10 books is available.

For other possibilities, visit [www.neablelibrary.org](http://www.neablelibrary.org) and type in "ESOL Civics" in the SUBJECT Search.

## Upcoming Professional Development

Register for all on the Calendar of Events at [www.ohioable.org](http://www.ohioable.org)



### Regional PD days -

C/SE Symposium- September 18 and 19

NE PD Day - October 17

NW Kickoff - September 26

SW Kickoff - October 17

### Statewide PD day - October 30 (See attached flyer for details)

Michael Jones from the USCIS will present a USCIS Regional Training Conference for Civics and Citizenship Teachers of Adults. Resource Center Network trainings include BEST Plus, LD 202, The Write Skills for Success, Portfolio Connection, CASAS and Math! Math! Math!

### Ohio TESOL Conference - October 31- November 1<sup>st</sup>

Chancellor Fingerhut has been invited to speak at Friday's Awards Luncheon. Denise Pottmeyer, state ABLE Director, will present on Transitions to the University System of Ohio and Michael Jones of the USCIS will give a session on the Redesigned Naturalization Test.

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## Alternative Delivery PD Activities – New for FY2009!

- **Webinar: Preparing for the New Citizenship Test**  
Friday, September 5, 2008 from 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM CLINIC (Catholic Legal Immigration Network) invites refugee and immigrant service providers to attend a free webinar training on the new citizenship test. This training will last approximately one hour and will provide an overview of the new citizenship test and how it differs from the current test; tools and resources for preparing students for the new test; and recommendations for service providers. The training will also present the new edition of CLINIC's handbook, "Citizenship for Us," which will be available for the first time as a free resource on the CLINIC website. The session will be interactive and will provide an opportunity for questions.
- **Culturally Proficient Instruction: A Guide for People Who Teach** - (book, study group)  
"To be culturally proficient does not mean you know all there is to know about diversity. It means you have learned how to learn. You have learned how to be a student of culture and a cultural informant to others about cultural expectations of the environments that you do know well." (p. 102)
- **Design your own PD** - (books, videos) The NEABLE library has materials specifically selected for professional development. Select a title from this list; digest the material, and "design your own PD". Suggestions for action are: write a review, implement change in your program/class based on the materials, hold a discussion group with your colleagues, teach the material at a local/regional workshop, or publish an article on the topic in a newsletter such as *Friday News Briefs*, *TAPAS*, the *OAAACE Newsletter*, or the *Ohio TESOL Journal*.
- **Reflective Practice in Action: 80 Reflection Breaks for Busy Teachers** (book)
- **When I Was Puerto Rican/ Almost a Woman** (book and video)
- **Bridges to Poverty** - (Book, audio, workbook)

## Don't forget about the oldies but goodies –

- **BEST Plus Refresher Toolkit** (manual, videos)
- **Cultural Orientation for Refugees** (manual, lesson plans, videos)
- **Teaching Basic Skills in the Workplace** (text, CD)