Literacy Learning Simulation

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Workshop Outcome

Participants will reflect more deeply on how the needs of ESL literacy learners differ from mainstream ESL learners in the areas of learning strategies, literacy strategies, concepts, and background knowledge.
Workshop Outline

Introductions

Literacy Learning Simulation

✓ Group Activity

✓ Groups Discussion

✓ Group Reflection

Debriefing
Introductions: A Classroom Web
Literacy Learning Simulation

Group Activity

In groups of 3 – 4 people, complete the two worksheets in Farsi.

One member of your group will be given an observer/recorder role.
Literacy Learning Simulation

Group Discussion
In your small groups, discuss the following 3 questions:

1. How did you feel while completing these worksheets?
2. What helped you to do the tasks?
3. What part of the worksheets were you unable to complete? Why?
Literacy Learning Simulation

Group Reflection

As a whole group discuss:

How did your literacy and educational background knowledge contribute to your performance on these tasks?

If you had little literacy/formal education in any language, how would this activity have been different for you? How would you have felt being asked to do it? What strategies might you have employed?
Debriefing

ESL literacy instruction focuses on developing:

• learning and literacy strategies
• concepts and background knowledge
Debriefing

Other Considerations

• picture literacy
• formats
• learning styles
• personalization
• post-traumatic stress
Summary

Many literacy skills are transferrable once people have functional literacy in one language; people really only acquire an internalized “literacy” once.

ESL literacy is a field separate from mainstream ESL education or adult literacy instruction.

Those on the ESL literacy continuum may require specialized classes because they do not have the same strategies, concepts and background knowledge to draw upon that those with functional literacy do.
Revisiting the Classroom Web

Why do you think an activity like the classroom web would be valuable at the beginning of an ESL literacy class?

- It establishes connections in a physical way among learners and creates community.
- It introduces learners to activities in the Canadian classroom.
- It puts learners at ease and helps create a safe learning environment.
- It will appeal to kinaesthetic and hands-on learners.
- It is an activity that starts with oral learning.
- It can teach that mistakes, such as dropping the ball of yarn or forgetting a name, are celebrated and valued in the ESL literacy class.
Thank you!

For more information on ESL literacy, visit the ESL Literacy Network at www.esl-literacy.com

All workshop handouts and materials can be found at: http://www.esl-literacy.com/community/professional-development/workshops

If you have facilitated or participated in this workshop, please share your reflections in the discussion forum: http://www.esl-literacy.com/forums/online-workshops/literacy-learner-simulation