

Additional Resources: Civic Engagement

I. Cultural Adjustment

An Evening with ESL Parents: A Framework for an Orientation Program

<http://cnx.org/content/m14693/latest/>

The article discusses ways that school systems can develop stronger bonds with parents of limited English speaking students.

Becoming a Cultural Insider

How Holidays Can Help ESL Students' Acculturation and Language Learning

http://iteslj.org/Articles/Lvovich-Cultural_Insider.html

This article describes the feeling of exclusion common to many English language learners. It gives suggestions for including ESL students in the celebration of U.S. holidays.

Ron's ESL Blogs

<http://rong-chang.com/blogs/?p=7>

In this blog, ESL adult students speak about their surprises and misunderstandings about American culture.

The World Comes to Tennessee

http://www.cls.utk.edu/pdf/esol_worldtotennessee.pdf

This PDF Resource Book for teachers of advanced ESL students contains a lot of useful information on student expectations and their adjustment in the United States. It also gives teachers strategies for the classroom.

II. Personal Interactions

Community-Based English Tutor Project Descriptions

<http://www.catesol.org/cbet.html>

Adult English learners are trained to help tutor children in their schools. They get a better sense of the school content and structure in addition to becoming an important part of the school community.

Creating Authentic Dialog

ESL Students as Recipients of Service Learning

<http://iteslj.org/Techniques/Marlow-ServiceLearning.html>

Here is a program that matches ESL students and native English speakers in fun community activities such as visits to parks, concerts, and athletic events.

III. Class Projects

CAELA

The Language Experience Approach and Adult Learners

http://www.cal.org/caela/esl_resources/digests/LEA.html

Marcia Taylor has made community trips a part of her ESL classes. She uses the Language Experience Approach to help students create a permanent record of their visits. In this article, she describes the process.

Civic Participation and Community Action Sourcebook

<http://tech.worlded.org/docs/vera/index1.htm>

The New England Literacy Resource Center has assembled descriptions of civic engagement projects written by the teachers developers. The descriptions include successes, problems, and solutions.

Your Dictionary.com

ESL Learn About My Community Story

<http://www.yourdictionary.com/esl/ESL-Learn-About-My-Community-Story.html>

This is a brief but helpful article on ways English language learners can learn more about their community.

The Traveling Classroom

ESL Students Give Back

<http://bostonteachnet.org/wong/wong.htm>

These ESL high school students and their teacher participated in several community-oriented projects. The process and the results are explained and shown on this Web site.

IV. Resources and Lesson Plans

EL/Civics Activity Packets

<http://www2.murrieta.k12.ca.us/adulted/pages/links.html>

Developed by the Colorado-based Spring Institute, these packets contain detailed lesson plans for a variety of civic engagement lessons.

English as a Second Language: A Virtual Library of Lesson Plans

<http://www.nc-net.info/ESL/index.php>

The collection of lesson plans at this Web site was developed by community colleges in North Carolina under EL/Civics grants. The quantity and variety of contributed plans make it possible to find a civics lesson for most ESL classes.

English Literacy/Civics

<http://www.lvarv.org/el-civics/NewLessonPlan%20Index.htm>

The Literacy Volunteers of Roanoke Valley have assembled a group of lessons that will help students take advantage of services in their communities including employment, health, and consumer resources.

Equipped for the Future Fundamentals

http://eff.cls.utk.edu/fundamentals/role_map_ccm.htm

Equipped for the Future (EFF) stresses the various roles of adults in family, work, and community. On the site, explore Thirteen Common Activities to find suggestions and posters to use with ESL classes.

V. Communication in the Workplace

NPR Marketplace

Lowering the Language Barrier

<http://marketplace.publicradio.org/shows/2006/11/09/PM200611094.html>

With text and audio, this presentation on National Public Radio describes a program which helps non-native English speakers to communicate better with their employers thus reducing accidents on the job.

VI. Curriculums

Coalition of Limited English Speaking Elderly

Bright Ideas – ESL for Elders

<http://www.clese.org/brightideas.htm>

From the Web site:

“Curriculum materials for 16 ESL-Civics units are posted and available for download. The topics for these units came out of discussions with students, focus groups, and needs assessments. They were specifically targeted for senior immigrants and refugees who had little English and often limited educations in their home countries. However, the materials can be utilized for a wide range of ESL learners.”

EL/Civics Health Curriculum

Charlottesville, Virginia

http://www.ccs.k12.va.us/programs/esl/docs/health/Health_Curriculum.pdf

A 34-page curriculum details lesson plans and rationales for health and community health resources for ESL students.

English Beyond the Classroom

Community-Based Tasks for ESL Students – LEAF Program, Asian Human Services

http://www.iccb.state.il.us/pdf/adulted/publications_reports/English_Beyond_Class.pdf

There are 165 pages in this extensive curriculum which describes how to bring students into the community to learn and use community services and to practice English.