

Brianna Larmore

October 28, 2013

ESL Interview

Mr. Brandon Yost is the English as a Second Language instructor at Snow Canyon Middle School. When interviewed, he stressed the need connect the words that you use to the Latin cognates that it contains. Connecting the English language to the Latin enables students to link their own home language, particularly Spanish, to the verbal language being used in class.

Many of the teaching strategies that were suggested by Mr. Yost for students in the ESL program are strategies that are suggested for the teaching of all students. Education should not be dumbed down, just approached from a different angle than the traditional. It is imperative that teachers access the prior knowledge of their students in order to engage their students' interest and grab their attention. Having the students participate in small group activities, where they have the ability to communicate with other students will support them in learning and using English. It is virtually impossible for students who are just starting to learn the English language to be successful in any class without visual representations of the processes that are needed to complete the assignment.

Mr. Yost explained to me the Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP) model of instruction. It consists of the eight interrelated components: lesson preparation, building background, comprehensible input, strategies, interaction, practice/application, lesson delivery, as well as review and assessment. By using instructional strategies connected to each of these components, teachers can create and deliver lessons that will assist English learners with their academic and linguistic needs.

Besides helping students in the classroom, it is important to assist English learners with basic intrapersonal communicative skills (BICS). This means helping them navigate through the lunch line, understand what time school gets out and starts, and other social aspects of school. It is difficult for teenagers, in particular, to be able to concentrate on their school work when can't even find where their locker or the lunch room is. Remember that they have trouble reading the signs which would direct other students.

After hearing all of this news, I was actually quiet relieved. I want to be able to include all students in my classroom. Trying to raise the low-achievers to the levels of the Common Core Standards, to encourage the high-achievers to move past the "bare minimum," increasing students' communication and involvement.... The list of requirements for the new Core teacher is long, and relatively new. It is good news to know that the best ways to assist our ESL students are the same processes that help all students in the classroom. There is no special unique formula. Kids are kids. The bests was to help them learn, are the same for all students. Let them communicate with each other, use visual representations to describe processes and procedures, and by allowing them time to think of their responses.