



Mr. Barge's Instructional Tip of the Week!

Supporting English Language Learners!

"To get to ALL, we have to focus on EACH." Today marks instructional day 39 and we are well into our second marking period for the fall semester. With each week that passes, we continue to fine tune our lessons to support all learners in our classrooms. In this week's "Instructional Tip of the Week," we focus on supporting our English Language Learners.

After visiting several classrooms over the last few weeks, I have noticed many effective instructional strategies that have our ELLs in mind. Here are just a few:

- 1) **Incorporating Visuals** – Incorporating visuals can serve many purposes in the classroom. For one, they can provide another way for ELLs, as well as visual learners, to access information during the lesson. Visuals can also help in explaining directions, aid in reading comprehension and vocabulary development as well as "give teachers another avenue to explain concepts" (Erika Hilliker – Educational Blogger and author of the article, "5 Things English Learners Need from Classroom Teachers" - <https://www.teachingchannel.org/blog/2018/06/25/5-things-ells-need>).
- 2) **Group Work** – Group work is a great way for students to learn to practice the language with their classmates. You may have students in your classes that have language barriers and exposure to the English language in a group setting can certainly help students practice language in a more personal setting. Implementing group work and group tasks also helps shift to a more student centered approach (Here is a link to an article that mentions this as well as some other strategies – "12 Ways to Support English Learners in the Mainstream Classroom" - <https://www.cultofpedagogy.com/supporting-esl-students-mainstream-classroom/>)
- 3) **Vocabulary Supports** – When planning my lessons I always think about ways to provide vocabulary supports for the students in my class to help them in their understanding of the content and to build their lexicons. I often do it through brainstorming activities, vocabulary supports included in the class readings and visuals.

Example of a modified document and vocabulary supports.

Document A: The Emancipation Proclamation (Modified)

On the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, all persons held as slaves within any State in rebellion against the United States, shall be forever free. . . .

Now, therefore I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, by virtue of the power in me vested as Commander-in-Chief, of the Army and Navy of the United States. . . do order and designate [appoint] the following States as being in rebellion:

Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia.

And I hereby call upon the people so declared to be free to abstain from all violence, unless in necessary self-defense; and I recommend to them that, in all cases when allowed, they labor faithfully for reasonable wages.

And I further declare and make known, that such persons will be received into the armed service of the United States.

And upon this act, sincerely believed to be an act of justice, warranted by the Constitution, upon military necessity, I invoke the considerate judgment of mankind, and the gracious favor of Almighty God.

By the President: ABRAHAM LINCOLN, January 1, 1863

by virtue of – due to, or because of
abstain from – choose not to do something
invoke – call on something (such as God) for inspiration or support

Keep in mind these techniques are just a few strategies for supporting English Language Learners in the classroom. Please continue your efforts to support ELLs in your instruction. Attached you will find some helpful resources that are available to help you with your planning.

... because at Edward R. Murrow High School, we **CARE** about our students!

Resources for Teachers of ELLs

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/>

Helps students better their English vocabulary and grammar through the context of learning about current news and global affairs.

<https://www.englishforums.com/>

English Forums Operating as the globe's biggest network of ESL learners and English speakers, this dynamic forum allows non-native speakers to ask any grammar questions they may have while learning English.

<https://www.ef.com/wwen/english-resources/english-grammar/>

This website provides helpful guides and examples for learning English grammar concepts like adverb, relative clauses and verb tenses.

<https://www.edutopia.org/topic/english-language-learners>

Edutopia offers several innovative, research-based strategies for teaching ELL, including incorporating photography, storytelling, and blogging.

http://www.ets.org/Media/About_ETS/pdf/ELL_Guidelines.pdf

The Educational Testing Service provides this in depth report on different factors for measuring a child's ability to learn and discusses appropriate assessment models.

<https://www.teachingchannel.org/ells>

This site explores the different ways educators can support their ELLs every day.

<http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational-leadership/mar17/vol74/num06/Student-Engagement@-Key-to-Personalized-Learning.aspx>

Article: Student Engagement: Key to Personalized Learning

<https://newsela.com/>

This site provides several "levels" of the same newspaper articles, along with some online interactives. (Content is free, although there is a cost for creating a virtual classroom.)

<https://www.commonlit.org/>

This site provides thematic reading collections with writing prompts. The site is planning to expand substantially over the next year. (Free.)

<https://www.icivics.org>

This site provides many social studies-related games and online activities, including ones targeting primary sources. (Free.)