

Activities that Work for ESOL Conversation Groups

***Jacqueline Simon and Joan Jobbins,
Conversation Group Tutors
Metuchen & Highland Park Libraries***

Background of Speakers

- Jacqueline Simon
- Reading Specialist & Coordinator, K-12
- College Administrator and Reading Instructor, Academic Support, Rider University
- Joan Jobbins
- French & Spanish Teacher, Secondary Level, Bridgewater-Raritan Schools
- College French Instructor & Fulbright Teaching Assistant in France

Comparison of Conversation Groups

Metuchen Library

- **Meeting Time:** 7:00pm
- **# of Students:** 6-15
- **# of Tutors:** 2 Lead Tutors
1 Assistant Tutor

Organization of Conversation Group

Students: All Levels

- **Academic Background:**
- **U. S. Work Experience:**

Highland Park Library

- **Meeting Time:** 10:30am
- **# of Students:** 15-20
- **# of Tutors:** 1 Lead Tutor
3 Assistant Tutors

Organization of Conversation Group

Students: All Levels

- **Academic Background:**
- **U. S. Work Experience:**

Pick Up Your Index Card

- Write one (1) question about leading a conversation group.
- Pass these cards up to the presenters.
- Before the session is over, we will respond to questions if they have not already been discussed.

Skill Focused Activities & Games

Warm-Ups:

Quickie

Quick Fire

Small Talk Walkabout

Cool Down:

Idioms/Proverbs

Miss Manners

Homework

Playtime:

Password

Spontaneous Conversations

Approach to a Themed Lesson

- Introduction to lesson that pulls students into new topic
- Simple questions printed and distributed to pairs or small groups to discuss and share
- Focus on vocabulary, idioms, & pronunciation related to theme
- Encourage students to make cultural comparisons (more advanced students)

Using Newspapers

Props

“New Rules for
Sunscreen”

Illustration

New York Times

Main Points

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Leading Questions

Extension

Dialogues and Role Playing

Calling 911

Ordering from a Restaurant

Phone Interview Questions

Vincent Van Gogh & Norman Rockwell

Background:

Artwork:

Activities:

Resources:

Follow Up/Extension:

Using the Internet as a Resource

Type ESL Activities for (Topic)

Favorites:

1. www.esl.about.com
2. www.bogglesworldesl.com
3. www.esldiscussions.com
4. www.eslgold.com

Now It Is Your Turn

- Choose one (1) activity with a partner or small group.
 - A. Calling 911
 - B. Phone Interview Questions
 - C. Restaurant Ordering
 - D. Rockwell Story Telling
- Report back to larger group.
 - A. What was the experience like?
 - B. What worked and what didn't work?

Questions?

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