



ESOL ADVISER

ESOL Newsletter Term 4 2005



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WAIKATO
Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato

Kia ora, ESOL Colleagues,

With less than a month until the end of the secondary school year, I am sure that you are all quite exhausted and beginning to look forward to the summer break. Herewith a few items of ESOL news to mull over in the non-contact periods you may have gained as your senior students prepare for their NCEA examinations at home (or in the back of your classrooms).

UE Standard Review Consultation

I am sure that you grasped the opportunity to have your say and were one of the 65 teachers who responded to the UE standard review consultation online. If you want to read about the consultation responses on UE requirements, they are summarised at <http://nzqa.govt.nz/news/releases/021105.html>. With regard to the UE literacy standard, most respondents wanted some change to the literacy requirement, but few wanted to ease the accuracy requirements. About a third of the responses favoured the addition of ESOL standards targeting tertiary academic reading and writing needs, writing purpose-built UE reading and writing standards or including "literacy-rich" standards beyond the English domain. Several schools suggested that only external assessment should be used for UE literacy requirements. Not surprisingly, there is no reference in the summary to re-instating IELTS or TOEFL as evidence of English language sufficient for university entrance for secondary school students.

Consultation with the universities and NZVCC will occur this summer, and schools will be notified of any changes to the entrance standard in June 2006. However, changes will not apply to school-leavers until mid-2007 at the earliest, so we will be working with the current requirements next year.

ESOL Level 4 Standard Writing

Consultation on the draft ESOL Level 4 standards is now complete. The main concerns about the draft standards related to ensuring equity for ESOL students and native English speakers in terms of task requirements, writing time allowance and conditions of assessment. Further panel meetings are planned this year to review the standards in the light of these comments. If you would like a personal copy of these draft standards, just let me know and I will send them to you.

English Language Learning Framework

The ELLF trial has been extended into 2006 with a focus on secondary schools. You can now read the draft document on ESOL Online; there is a link on the homepage. The framework is designed as a guide to the pathway along which English language learners move. It includes descriptors of oral language and annotated examples of reading texts and writing samples at the various stages. These stages are juxtaposed to those in the English Language Intensive Programme resource and the NZ Curriculum Framework. It is hoped that the framework will promote some national consistency in recording the progress of English language learners. It is a well-researched and impressive document, well worth a holiday read. We would welcome your feedback.

Curriculum Project Update

Many teachers are wondering where ESOL sits in the NZ Curriculum Marautanga Project. My understanding is that ESOL has been designated as a "Learning Focus Audit" area. A research paper on the place of ESOL in the school curriculum is currently underway and this will be made available to

stakeholders in early 2006. This is a positive sign for us. You can get more information about the Curriculum Project in general at <http://www.cmp.ac.nz/>.

A plea for externally moderated standards

Almost every ESOL teacher I speak to is desperate for more quality, moderated assessment tasks and exemplars for ESOL unit standards. Many of you are working long hours, often in isolation, writing units and assessment materials. In an effort to help with NCEA resourcing in the region, I am asking schools which have had external moderation of ESOL standards they have written this year, to send me copies of their moderated material (tasks, schedules and samples of student responses, especially for writing standards), including moderator recommendations. I am particularly interested in writing samples which are on the borderline of achieved / not achieved, as these will help illuminate performance criteria for teacher-markers. If you have unmoderated tasks which you are quite happy with, I will endeavour to have these moderated with a view to sharing with other teachers. I would be very grateful if you would post or fax copies to me at the Tauranga office (mailing details below) in December so that I can work on them over the school holidays.

IELTS Band Descriptors Go Public

IELTS have finally dropped their criteria cover! Take a look at the IELTS website <http://www.ielts.org/teachersandresearchers/scoreprocessingreportingandinterpretation/default.aspx> where public versions of the band descriptors for Speaking and Writing (Tasks 1 and 2) have been posted for teachers and students. These are very detailed and informative. They will be extremely useful in measuring the productive competence of your students in the IELTS context. They will also help students to see what the band scores actually mean and to identify specific areas they need to work on for better results. You may well wish to use or modify these descriptors for other school assessment purposes such as progress testing. Please note that the descriptors apply to both Academic and General Writing modules.

Resources

Setting the Standard

Assessment tasks for the following ESOL Unit Standards are now in the series Setting the Standard by Merle Braithwaite.

Level 1: 2985

Level 2: 3477, 17368

Level 3: 17363, 17144, 17370

These can be purchased for \$25 from www.speechandlearning.co.nz. Merle plans to publish more booklets by February 2006.

ESOL Year 11 NCEA Units with Assessment Tasks

Team Solutions are planning to publish an updated version of this resource with unit standard assessment tasks and schedules modified to the revised criteria. It is hoped that this will be available in Term 1 2006.

Effective Literacy Strategies Years 9-13

Your school should have a copy of this resource published by Learning Media in 2004 and it is well worth a read. Designed as a PD programme for all secondary subject teachers, ELS outlines a range of teaching and learning ideas – on vocabulary, reading and writing – to improve literacy learning and thinking needs of students. Many of the strategies are ESOL-based and well worth using or adapting for your classes. See your school's Literacy Facilitator or HOD English and borrow ELS for a while. You will soon see that the literacy experts have taken on board a great deal from our field.

Discount software

The Ministry of Education has made preferred supplier arrangements with a number of software companies, which means that there is 20% discount on software ordered through the TKI ICT site. This includes a number of items very useful in ESOL programmes. To take advantage of this offer, click on the ICT kete on TKI www.tki.org.nz/r/ict/ then to the Educational Software link. There you will find many useful items at reduced prices. These are especially good for schools, such as those in isolated areas, with very small numbers of English language learners.

Clicker 5

Clicker 5 is a useful writing programme, comprised of writing grids. It's an update to Clicker 4, with a hugely increased bank of diagrams for labelling and writing grids, almost all of which are related to curriculum topics in mainstream classrooms. Clicker reads the text (which can be created by both teachers or students) back to the students, so it supports reading, writing, speaking and listening. There are several good update offers for those who already have Clicker 4, as well as good Clicker 5 prices for first time buyers. Details are on the TKI ICT website at www.tki.org.nz/r/ict/software/clicker5_e.php. In addition, for the first time, Clicker 5 can be bought privately.

ESOL Online Update

Cars of the Future, assessment activities for ESOL Unit Standard 17363 Read independently information texts, and *Teasing the Lion*, assessment activities for ESOL US 2986 Begin to read independently texts to gain knowledge, have now been reviewed. On a rainy day over the holidays, it's also worth clicking on some the Professional Readings link on ESOL Online's homepage. During term, I know, Classroom Practice has to take priority!

CLESOL Conference

The 10th National Conference on Community Languages and ESOL will be held at the Eastern Bay Institute of Technology in Napier from 29th September to 2nd October 2006. The theme for the conference is "Origins and Connections: Linking Theory, Research and Practice". This is a wonderful opportunity to hear presentations and attend workshops on a wide variety of language teaching and learning areas. You might like to present a paper yourself! For more information go to the CLESOL website at www.clesol.org.nz.

NCEA Level 2 Literacy Reading Workshop

A workshop on UE literacy reading and writing unit standards 12420 and 12905 with English adviser and moderator, Merle Ramsay, will be held early in Term 1 next year. A number of teachers have expressed uncertainty about text levels and assessment practices for these standards, especially 12905. This session will provide clear guidelines and an opportunity for you to ask questions and receive answers from an English moderator.

PD 2006

As mentioned in my previous newsletter, the Ministry of Education want advisers to work in some schools, in an in-depth way, with a focus on raising the achievement of ESOL students, in preference to a lot of one-off presentations. However, I will be offering some regional workshops so please let me know if there are any specific skills or areas you would like covered. Also, if you have a burning passion to do some action research in your school, I would be delighted to help you with this.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time for advice and practical assistance. It is my job to support you so that we can help our NESB students reach their potential in NZ schools and beyond and I am looking forward to working with you in 2006.

May you all enjoy a well-earned holiday in the sun and have a great Christmas with family and friends. Travel safely and take some time to look at the pohutukawa on the way. Ka kite ano.

Noho ora mai
Julie

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