Teaching Academic Content to Low-Literacy Students

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TESOL 2006
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For an electronic version of the handout:

http://www.soundsofenglish.org/Presentations/TESOL2006/teaching-content.htm
Literacy Content Curriculum Topics
Transitional High School Program
Fairfax County, VA

September: Colors, Shapes, Prepositions
October: Five Senses
November: Thanksgiving
December: Matter and Measurement
January: Map Skills
February: World Geography
March: Landforms
April: Introduction to Civics
May: Introduction to Living Things – Animals
June: Plants
July: Living Systems (summer school)
Suggested Books for Literacy Content Class

This list is not available electronically. For more information, please contact Michelle.Campiglia@fcps.edu.
Suggested Websites for Teachers and Students

Colors, Shapes, Prepositions
- What color is this? [http://www.geocities.com/pccprep/colors.html](http://www.geocities.com/pccprep/colors.html)

5 Senses

Thanksgiving
- Thanksgiving word scramble: [http://a4esl.org/q/h/9704/af-sw-thanks.html](http://a4esl.org/q/h/9704/af-sw-thanks.html)

Matter and Temperature
- BBC Solids and Liquid: [http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/scienceclips/ages/8_9/solid_liquids.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/scienceclips/ages/8_9/solid_liquids.shtml) (the directions are a little complicated, but the game is not very difficult)

Map Skills
- There is not much at the basic reading level of these students, but here is an on-line jigsaw puzzle of a compass rose: [http://www.jigzone.com/z.php?1F5PGB0X86C93F](http://www.jigzone.com/z.php?1F5PGB0X86C93F)

World Geography
- google earth: [http://earth.google.com/](http://earth.google.com/)
- continents quiz: [http://www.mcwdn.org/MAPS&GLOBES/ContinentsQuiz.html](http://www.mcwdn.org/MAPS&GLOBES/ContinentsQuiz.html)
- continents and ocean quiz: [http://www.mrnussbaum.com/contquiz.htm](http://www.mrnussbaum.com/contquiz.htm)
- continents and oceans word scramble: [http://www.surfnetkids.com/games/geography-sc.htm](http://www.surfnetkids.com/games/geography-sc.htm)

Landforms

Intro to Civics
- Ben’s Guide to U.S. Government for Kids: [http://bensguide.gpo.gov/index.html](http://bensguide.gpo.gov/index.html) (you can choose the grade level at this site. There are some things listed as K-2 that are at a reading and content level appropriate for older literacy level students)
- Kids Democracy Project: [http://pbskids.org/democracy/](http://pbskids.org/democracy/). Some of the text may be too difficult. However, the site has a lot of information and related the role of government to the individual.

Intro to Living Things/Animals
- Animals quiz: [http://www.evgschool.org/ESL_animals.htm](http://www.evgschool.org/ESL_animals.htm)
- Scrambled words-- animals: [http://www.manythings.org/sw/animals.html](http://www.manythings.org/sw/animals.html)
- BBC game – find the living things in the environment: [http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/scienceclips/ages/6_7/plants_animals_env.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/scienceclips/ages/6_7/plants_animals_env.shtml)

Plants
- BBC Growing plants game: [http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/scienceclips/ages/5_6/growing_plants.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/scienceclips/ages/5_6/growing_plants.shtml)

Living Systems
- Animal habitat flashcards: [http://bogglesworld.com/animalhabitatcards.htm](http://bogglesworld.com/animalhabitatcards.htm)
Sample Reading Activity

*America’s Symbols: Using the Index*

Directions:
- Use the index in the book.
- Find the page for these things.
- Draw a picture for each one.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White House</td>
<td>14 and 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Seal</td>
<td>____________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flag</td>
<td>____________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eagle</td>
<td>____________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberty Bell</td>
<td>____________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seal</td>
<td>____________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- developed by Sharon Widmayer
  Fairfax County Public Schools
Sample Reading Activity

Our Capital – Using the Table of Contents

Directions:
• Use the Table of Contents of the book *Our Capital*.
• Write the page where you can find information about these places.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. a map of Washington</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. the Lincoln Memorial</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. National Air and Space Museum</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. the Washington Monument</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. the White House</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. the Jefferson Memorial</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. the Capitol Building</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Fairfax County Public Schools
Sample Writing Activity

Sense of Sight

What do you see?  I see an orange.

What do you see?  I see a butterfly.

1. What do you see?  
I see ________________________________.

2. ________________________________?  
_____________________________________.

3. ________________________________?  
_____________________________________.

4. ________________________________?  
_____________________________________.

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Sample Writing Activity

Five Senses Writing Practice

Directions:
- Think about how you use the five senses.
- Write a sentence about how you use each sense.

Examples: (smell/coffee) I smell coffee every morning with my nose.
(see/teacher) I see my teacher at school at 6:30 pm.

1. (taste/food) _________________________________________________________

2. (hear/music) ________________________________________________________

3. (smell/flowers) _______________________________________________________

4. (touch/water) _________________________________________________________

5. (see/my family) _____________________________________________________

Now put your sentences in paragraph form. Remember to indent, use capital letters, and periods.

I use my five senses all the time.

My five senses are very important.

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Sample Listening Activity

Sense of Hearing

What do you hear?  I hear the ocean.

What do you hear?  I hear the birds.

What do you hear?  I hear the insects.

What do you hear?  I hear the rain.

Directions:
• Listen to the sounds from the computer.
• Complete the sentences.

1. What do you hear?
I hear____________________________________________________

2. What do you hear?
____________________________________________________

3. What do you hear?
____________________________________________________

4. What do you hear?
____________________________________________________

5. What do you hear?
____________________________________________________

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Sample Speaking Activity

Dialogues – Understanding our Rights
Note to teachers

In this activity, students work in groups to write short dialogues to act out that demonstrate a right in the bill of rights. Lower LA students may not be able to come up with their own dialogue. They could be put in groups with stronger students or given teacher created dialogues to act out.

Example dialogues:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Police Office:</th>
<th>I want to come into your house and look around.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Man:</td>
<td>I’m sorry, but can you please show me your permission.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Man:</td>
<td>I hate the government! The taxes are too high!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woman:</td>
<td>Don’t say that! The government doesn't like it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Man:</td>
<td>That’s OK. In America I have the right to say things I think are important.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Woman comes into a room, puts down a rug facing east and starts to pray.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Man:</th>
<th>What are you doing?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Woman:</td>
<td>I am praying.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Man:</td>
<td>But this is school. Why are you praying?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woman:</td>
<td>It is important for my religion. The government says I can pray if I want.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Man reading a newspaper that says President Makes Mistake as a headline.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Woman: The president was wrong? Can they write that in the newspaper.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Man: Yes they can in the U.S.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Man:</th>
<th>You and your friends should go home. The police will arrest you if they see so many immigrants hanging out outside!</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Woman:</td>
<td>In the US, they cannot arrest me just for meeting my friend.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Sample Reading/Speaking Activity

Seven Continents

Directions:
- Read Seven Continents with your teacher.
- Use the book and what you learned in class to complete the chart.
- Talk about one of the continents in front of the class.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Continent</th>
<th>What You Will Find Here</th>
<th>Animals</th>
<th>Other Important Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Resources for Teachers

- Magnetic Tape can be ordered from Office Depot. www.officedepot.com
- Pattern Blocks for use with an overhead projector can be ordered from www.etacuisenaire.com
- Correction Tape can be ordered from Office Depot. www.officedepot.com. We recommend the 6 line width.