

Authentic Materials & Activities for the ELL Classroom

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Bringing it all Together:

- Using Authentic Materials in the ESL Classroom
- Student engagement
- Transferability of Skills
- Content
- Common Core
- Assessment: BEST Plus

Literacy 'In Context'

- Authentic, learner-centered, relevant materials & activities
- Transferable skills
- Retention
- Real life texts for real-life purposes
- Appropriate for learners of all levels
- Learner Engagement
- Collaborative classroom
- Works hand-in-hand with core standards, standardized testing, and content-based learning

Learner centered, relevant, contextualized, collaborative instruction =SUCCESS!

“Their [authentic materials] value and strength is in helping students to engage in new literacy practices within their day to day lives.”
Creating Authentic Materials, p70



Icebreaker:
Building Together



Icebreaker: *Common Ground*



Discussion Questions

How would *you* define authentic materials?

**Do you use authentic materials in your classroom now?
If so, what?**

Identifying Authentic Materials

- Uses print materials and activities in class in the **SAME WAY** they would be used in outside life.
- Considers why people read outside school
- It's not just format...it's how things are used!
 - writing letters that will be sent
 - choosing books based on student interest
 - writing checks

MAKING CONNECTIONS: Texts and Purposes

<i>Text</i>	<i>School Based Use</i>	<i>Authentic use</i>	<i>Have you used this text? How?</i>
TV schedule	looking for proper nouns as part of a capitalization review	look for a favorite show	
Health brochure	Words for a spelling test	Get information about a specific condition	
Novel	Review punctuation	Enjoy the style of the writer	

What is a Reader?

- Definition varies from context to context
- Examines the role literacy plays in 'social reality' of student
- Takes cultural values and practices into consideration

Let's Talk...

- How wide a variety of literacy activities do your students currently engage in inside the classroom?
- Which activities do you think your students engage in outside of the classroom?
- Which one of those activities do you think would be important to bring into the classroom? Why?

Making Connections

- Real life practice in the classroom
- Transferability
- Teacher journal: **What did YOU read/write this week?**

Getting to Know You

- How do you get to know your students?
- What do you think you need to know about your students?
- Relationship with students: where do you draw the line?
(pp.37 – 41)

“ Relationship building while building literacy skills.” (p33)

Class Time: Practical Application

- ✓ What are your students saying?
- ✓ Select a theme
- ✓ Journaling
- ✓ Shared reading
- ✓ Drawing!

Implementation: Choosing & Using Authentic Materials in the Classroom

- Student-centered real world application
- Extending lessons
- Newsela

“The value of a book or textbook is determined by how it helps a student in a given context.” p44

Challenges

- Student acceptance
- Low student self esteem
- Lack of student trust
- Can you think of others?.....

Bridging the Gap:

- Integrating BEST Plus
- Incorporating Common Core Readiness Standards

Measuring Success

- Informal assessment
- Standardized testing



Go for Gain with BEST Plus

Using the Rubric to Inform Instruction

BEST Plus Themes

Personal	Occupational	Public
Personal identification Health Family/Parenting Consumerism Housing Recreation/ Entertainment	Getting a job On the job	Civics Community services Transportation/ Directions Weather/Seasons Education

Let's get started!

- Relevance
- Addresses literacy needs
 - reading for information
 - summarizing
 - compare and contrast
 - word level skills
 - sound/symbol relationship

“Students are learning skills IN CONTEXT OF actual reading and writing for authentic purposes.” p 69

Selecting a Theme

- Collaborate!
- Ask yourself: What does the student want to know?
 - What are the student's goals?
 - What are the student's interests?
 - What kind of reading/writing do they need to do?

Sample Theme for the Adult ELL Classroom



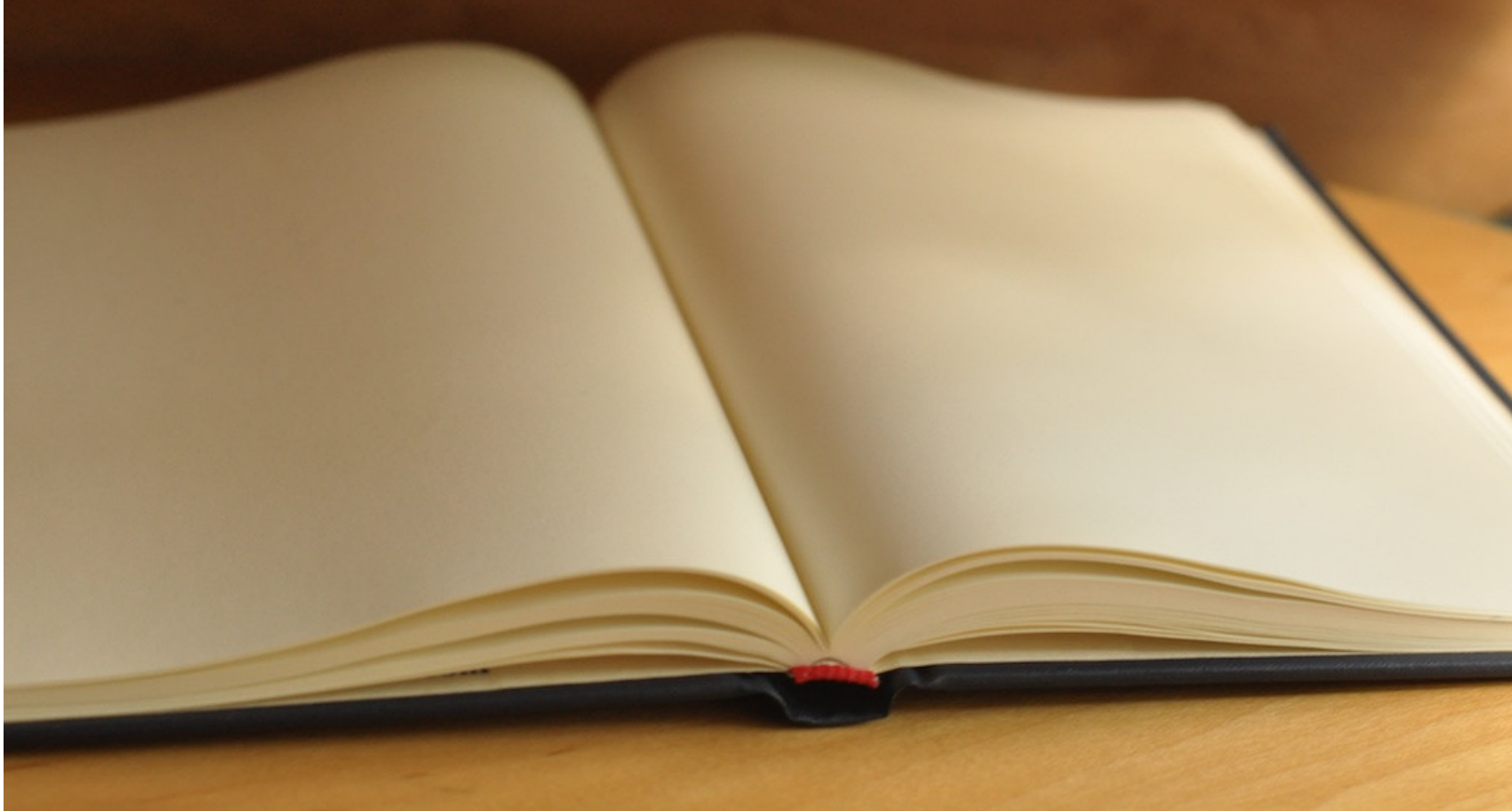
Lunch Time!



Activities that Make Authentic Materials Come to Life in the Classroom

- Blank Book
- Adapting Newsela articles
- The 5 W's

Blank Book



Rewriting NEWSELA Articles for lower-level students:

Opinion: The world is drowning in problems caused by bottled water

Grade Level **9** Word Count **926**



The W's: *What's the big idea?*

- Who
- What
- Where
- When
- Why

Main idea sentence:

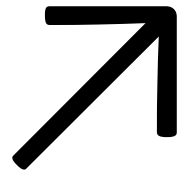
Activity

- Work in groups
- Based on NEWSELA handout, decide on a theme
- Using the handouts, materials provided here today, and your imagination, create an authentic learning experience for your students
- Chart your answers to share with group
- Any questions?
- You have 30 minutes

Integrating Social Studies, Math, Science in the ELL classroom: extending lessons

Find x .

$$x + 10 = 12$$



HERE IT IS!!!!!!

Group Reflection

- Using authentic materials and activities in the adult ELL classroom
- Benefits
- Challenges
- Authentic instruction and standardized tests

“It’s not cheating, it’s good test preparation!”

Rosemary Matt, 2015, speaking on BEST Plus specific themes and language