

MIDTESOL MATTERS



The Mid-America TESOL Affiliate Newsletter

July 2016

Each season brings changes that impact our lives – both personally and professionally. Those of us who work with language learners are committed to providing effective instruction for our students; this includes a strong commitment to the well-being of our student populations. It is critical to remain aware of how current events can impact not only non-native speakers, but our own profession.

In the past, I have spent significant time in 1:1 meetings requested by students, discussing summer time woes – chiggers, ticks and poison ivy. Advising occurs year round and often focuses on climactic issues – tornadoes, ice storms and floods. Recently current events such as immigration policies, global economics, mass shootings and the presidential race have added a new dimension to student advising.

How are current realities impacting our profession? For many IEPs, the reality of lowered enrollments is impacting employment opportunities and services to students. Now it is more important than ever to find resources that promote sustainable practices. The K-12 sector and Adult Ed are certainly impacted by changes in immigrant populations, federal and state regulations, and funding issues.

MIDTESOL has expanded its communications offerings in an effort to meet the needs of members. Our website, MIDTESOL.org, features essays that are informative and relevant. Lindsey Jackson's DACA and DAPA update, posted June 17th, provides timely information on the Dream Act. Claudia Franks keeps the [MIDTESOL Facebook](#) page active and current. Are you curious about ways to improve class delivery through technology? Check out the [Facebook MIDTESOL Education Technology](#) Interest Section page. Of course, our fall conference is my favorite professional development opportunity of the year, and I look forward to seeing everyone at the end of September in Kansas City.

Heated debates are taking place across America. There is an increased need for objective and clear communications with our English language learners. Lindsey Jackson's essay on Encouraging Social English (<http://midtesol.org/encouraging-social-english/>) provides great tips on developing assignments that can help a student adjust while developing critical thinking skills.

English language acquisition is an important field of study and will remain critical in a globally connected world. I remain committed to MIDTESOL's mission "to strengthen the effective teaching of English in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska to people whose native language is one other than English while respecting their individual language rights."



-Roberta Morgan,
MIDTESOL President

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INNOVATION AND IMPROVISATION



MIDTESOL Conference 2016 – *Innovation and Improvisation*

When? Friday, September 30 and Saturday, October 1, 2016.
This conference will begin Friday morning and last two full days!

Where? Kansas City Marriott Downtown, Kansas City, MO

Guest speakers:

Stephen D. Krashen, the pillar of Second Language Acquisition (SLA) whose latest focus is Literacy & Free Voluntary Reading

Deborah J. Short, director of the ESL Standards and Assessment Project for TESOL and co-developer of The Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP) Model at the Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL)

Sonia Nazario, journalist and Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Enrique's Journey*

Roger Rosenthal, Executive Director of the Migrant Legal Action Program (MLAP), a national non-profit support and advocacy center located in Washington, D.C.

Registration is now open with early bird pricing through September 5. You will be able to make your Marriott reservations from the registration link.

More Info at

[http://midtesol.org/
midtesol-conference-
2016/](http://midtesol.org/midtesol-conference-2016/)

MIDTESOL 2016

TRAVEL AWARDS

This year's theme of **Innovation and Improvisation** invites you to share ideas on the path ahead for our profession.

Interest Section Travel Awards

Reminder to MIDTESOL members attending the 2016 MIDTESOL Conference September 30th - October 1st! The deadline to apply for an Interest Section Travel Award is July 22 for attendees who do not receive financial assistance from their employers. One winner from each interest section will receive a check for \$125 at the conference. For more information, see IS Travel Award under the MIDTESOL Conference 2016 tab on the website or at <http://midtesol.org/midtesol-conference-2016/is-travel-awards/> for more information.

Distinguished Service Award

Also, MIDTESOL would like to announce the Distinguished Service Award. Please consider nominating someone whose service to MIDTESOL has been outstanding. (Current board members are not eligible.) We will recognize this individual's dedication and leadership at the conference. We need:

- > a. A nominating letter explaining your rationale for the choice of this individual, verifying, too, that s/he meets the eligibility requirement;
- > b. An up-to-date curriculum vitae of the candidate; and
- > c. An account of any MIDTESOL Distinguished Service Awards received (on the part of the nominee) in the past.

Submit your application for an award online at

<http://midtesol.org/midtesol-conference-2016/is-travel-awards/>

2016 CONFERENCE CONCERT

In celebration of MIDTESOL's move to Kansas City and the theme of Innovation and Improvisation, the conference will be featuring a number of iconic KC elements in its lineup. Presentations related to Jazz and music being incorporated in the classroom will be a part of the education sessions while hosted dinners at famous jazz spots and even a performance by one of MIDTESOL's own during the conference opening will round out the conference-wide offerings.

A performance by the Kurtis Foster x Hermon Mehari Quintet will see the combination of ESL and musical forces.



Coming up together in the small town music scenes of Mid-Missouri has created opportunities through the years for Kansas City trumpeter Hermon Mehari and Springfield ESL educator Kurtis Foster to combine not only their mutual musings, but also diverse inspirations in musical meetings of the mind. At once chthonic and empyreal, their collaboration is the pursuance of what it is that makes people, cultures, and societies harmonious through that connate common language, music.

Don't miss this musical meeting of the minds during the opening of MIDTESOL 2016 on Friday, September 30th 2016.

Get Ready for Kansas City:

Kansas City Tourism website:

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

Getting around: The Kansas City Street Car/Light Rail

http://www.kcata.org/light_rail_max/kansas_ctiy_streetcar



Top Locations in Kansas City

The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art

4525 Oak Street, Kansas City, MO 64111

<http://www.nelson-atkins.org/>

-Free!



Kitty's Café– Amazing Fusion Cuisine where you least expect it-

Tempura Pork Tenderloin Sandwiches.

810 1/2 E 31st St, Kansas City, MO 64109



Sporting KC– Professional Soccer Game– vs. New England Revolution

Saturday, 10/1/2016 at 6:30pm

<http://www.sportingkc.com/schedule>





Dear Fellow Members of TESOL International Association,

Dr. Rosa Aronson has informed the Board of Directors that she wishes to step down as our Association's Executive Director in spring 2017. Rosa began her TESOL service in April 2010, at a time when the Association was still dealing with the aftermath of the 2008 economic downturn, but was committed to becoming more internationally focused. Her time as TESOL's Executive Director has seen many significant achievements including:

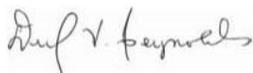
- the change of our name to TESOL International Association,
- the adoption of the 2012-2015 and 2015-2018 Strategic Plans,
- a review and restructuring of the entities and processes we use to govern our association so that we might operate in a more strategic manner,
- the initiation of regional conferences outside of the United States and a dramatic growth in our online professional learning opportunities, and
- the implementation of yearly operational plans that have allowed us to pursue our strategic directions while also enabling us to double our financial reserves since 2010.

Because she is a very humble person, Rosa will say that these are the Association's achievements, not hers. Without her visionary thinking, gentle guidance, and determined pursuit of our mission, however, we would not be where we are today. Anyone who has worked with her will tell you that Rosa sets a very high bar for the future. The Board of Directors has appointed an Executive Director Search Task Force to lead the work of compiling a position description and reviewing applications to present to the Board for final consideration. The Task Force comprises the following members:

- President-elect Ester de Jong, Professor and Director School of Teaching and Learning, University of Florida (Chair),
 - Deena Boraie, Professor of Practice and Dean, School of Continuing Education, the American University in Cairo and the 2013-14 President of TESOL International Association,
 - Elisabeth Chan, Assistant Professor, ESL, Northern Virginia Community College - Alexandria Campus,
 - Reza Mazloom-Farzaghy, Accreditation Services Manager TESL Ontario and ESL Instructor at Seneca College, and
 - Rosemary Orlando, Professor, Southern New Hampshire University.

The Board has hired [Vetted Solutions](#), an executive search firm specializing in non-profit associations, to advise and help manage the search. The position description will be posted in August and applications will be accepted through October. All inquiries regarding the position should be directed to [Jim Zaniello](#). The search will conclude by March 2017.

While it will be difficult to say goodbye to Rosa next spring, we will do so knowing that she has positioned us well for our future.



Dudley Reynolds
President

Top Posts in TESOL:

The most inspiring TESOL and Education conversations happening on the web.



MIDTESOL
@MIDTESOL



Following

Curious about [@SLNazario](#) presentation at [#MIDTESOL16](#) in Kansas City? Watch this video for a preview. [#ELLChat](#) [#ELT](#)



Meeting Enrique
Sonia explains how she met Enrique, the protagonist of "Enrique's Journey."
[youtube.com](#)

<https://twitter.com/MIDTESOL/status/724781051428503552>



Southwest Regional Professional Development Center
July 13 at 12:47pm · 🌐

👍 Like Page

If you are wondering how to fund an extra project for your classroom, this is a list of possible grants and resources that may be of use to you!



The Big List of Educational Grants and Resources
Get a roundup of educational grants, contests, awards, free toolkits, and classroom guides aimed at helping students, classrooms, schools, and communities. Check this page weekly to get the latest updates!
EDUTOPIA.ORG

<https://www.facebook.com/swrpdcc/?fref=nf>

<https://www.facebook.com/Midtesol/>



MIDTESOL shared Colorín Colorado's post.

July 13 at 11:49am · 🌐



Colorín Colorado

July 13 at 9:08am · 🌐

👍 Like Page

Conexiones program at Arizona State University works with school districts to improve students' skills, develop their self-confidence.



Closing the education gap for migrant children

Arizona is among the top 10 states in America when it comes to numbers of migrant students — there are roughly 8,800 in the state — yet Seline Szkupinski-Quiroga says it's like “they're invisible.” As the director of the Conexiones Migrant Student...

ASUNOW.ASU.EDU



MIDTESOL shared a link.

June 28 at 2:30pm · 🌐



20 Books Featuring Diverse Characters to Inspire Connection and Empathy

San Francisco Public Library's children's book librarians recommend favorite new titles featuring diverse characters and families.

WW2.KQED.ORG

<http://ww2.kqed.org/mindshift/2016/06/20/20-books-featuring-diverse-characters-to-inspire-connection-and-empathy/>



MIDTESOL shared a link.

June 28 at 10:01am · 🌐

<https://americanenglish.state.gov/>



“American English” Site From U.S. Department Of State Has Developed Into Great Resource For ELL...

Four years ago, the U.S. Department of State unveiled American English, a site for teachers and learners of the English language. I was not impressed at the time....

LARRYFERLAZZO.EDUBLOGS.ORG

<http://www.english.com/blog/truths-elt-fact-or-fiction>



MIDTESOL shared a link.

June 19 at 9:35am · 🌐



Our experts debate the "truths" in English language teaching

Pearson English, ELTjam and a team of ELT experts debate the "truths" in English language teaching in our Fact or Fiction report

ENGLISH.COM



MIDTESOL

June 19 at 10:59am · 🌐

https://www.academia.edu/.../In_a_World_of_Disposable_Student...

In a World of Disposable Students: The Humanizing Elements of Border Pedagogy in Teacher Education

One of the many consequences of a neoliberal, high-stakes policy in No Child Left Behind has been that teachers and administrators have resorted to the systematic removal of vulnerable student groups, such as Latina/o English language learners. This

ACADEMIA.EDU

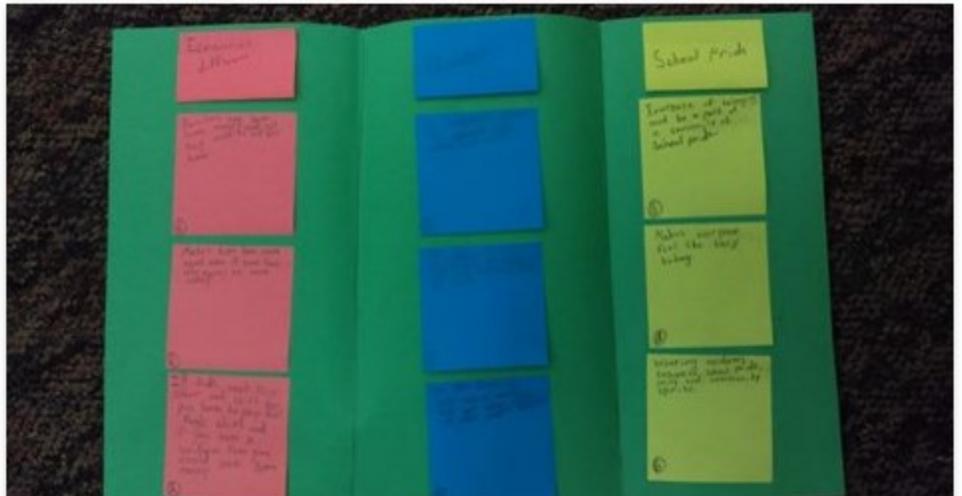
<https://www.academia.edu/24996194/>

[In a World of Disposable Students The Humanizing Elements of Border Pedagogy in Teacher Education?auto=view&campaign=weekly_digest](https://www.academia.edu/24996194/In_a_World_of_Disposable_Students_The_Humanizing_Elements_of_Border_Pedagogy_in_Teacher_Education?auto=view&campaign=weekly_digest)



MIDTESOL shared a link.

June 18 at 1:14pm · 🌐



Have You Tried This Easy Idea for Paragraph Planning?

Struggling students often hesitate to plan their writing on a graphic organizer. Writing ideas down on paper feels so permanent to a student who is unsure or lacks confidence. Technology provides...

IDEASFOREducATORS.COM

<http://www.ideasforeducators.com/idea-blog/have-you-tried-this-easy-idea-for-paragraph-planning>

MIDTESOL Member Mark Algren:

TESOL 50 at 50 Award Recipient!

By Liza Armstrong

“Ching-Ching-CHING!” Instructor Jenifah Abu-Hassan reminisced that Mark Algren, a MIDTESOL member, used to start his faculty meetings with this sound of Tibetan double bells when he served as her boss at American University of Sharjah in the UAE. As he undoubtedly started meetings as director of language programs at two Saudi universities and the University of Kansas (KU), Mark still begins meetings with this pleasant ringing at the University of Missouri-Columbia, where he is the Executive Director of the Center for English Language Learning (CELL). In addition to having held these leadership positions, Mark has steered many professional organizations, including serving as the Vice President of University and College Intensive English Programs (UCIEP) (2013-14) and President of TESOL (2009-10). Recently, TESOL members selected Mark as one of the 50 most influential people in our field in the past 50 years. Some of Mark’s present and past colleagues have singled out distinguishing qualities that make him richly deserving of the 50 at 50 award:



1. Leader for innovation and improvement

Frontiersman. According to Fahd Said, Mark’s Dean of Education Services in Saudi Arabia, Mark is a “frontiersman” who helped “establish a college in the middle of the Arabian Desert,” with his contributions to Hail University.

Prime Mover. Administrative Assistant of CELL at MU, Susan DeMian, referred to Mark as an “administrative ‘mover and shaker.’”

Navigator. Mark has navigated Mizzou’s CELL programs through many changes, including hiring new IEP director Lily Sorenson, restructuring IEP levels, substantially increasing the size of the faculty, renovating offices and classrooms, and purchasing a computer lab.

2. Advocate for professional development

Investor. Mark financially supports professional development for his staff, offering opportunities to take online classes; attend and present at regional and international conferences; and participate in customized workshops with experts on topics like curriculum, assessment, and accreditation.

Role Model. Mark also sets a great example for professional development. He delivered an impressive 6 presentations at the 2016 TESOL Convention in Baltimore and even dressed up as the Cowardly Lion in a *Wizard of Oz*-inspired musical rendition of the past 50 years of TESOL.

Delegator. CELL instructor Barbara Leonhard wrote that Mark is “able to delegate jobs to the faculty and enable them to foster leadership skills,” thus adding to our professional development.

Motivator. Kaitlin Westbook, CELL instructor, noted that she had also worked with Mark at KU and continues to learn from him, admire him, and is “grateful for his insight and steadfast confidence in his faculty.”

Markday 😊

3. Expert Communicator

Skillful Persuader & Active Listener. Leo Schmitt, who worked with Mark at American University of Sharjah, reported, “When there were pressures ‘from above’ to make counter-productive changes, Mark was able to respond with hard data and soft charm . . . Mark’s understanding of his own field and ability to convey that understanding to those who lacked it set him apart as an administrator.” Schmitt also noted that Mark was an active listener who “took real efforts to understand” his students, faculty, staff, and administration.

Promoter Across Disciplines. Aaron Huerter, Program Manager at KU’s Applied English Center, wrote, “I always felt that one of Mark’s biggest contributions to the TESOL field has been his dedication to promoting and professionalizing the field, especially in relation to helping those outside the field understand it better.”

Unifier. Charles Bankart, Assistant Vice Provost at KU, noted that Mark “has dedicated his life’s work to bringing people from diverse backgrounds together and helping them to understand one another.”

4. Champion of increasing program visibility

Spotlight Operator. Irene Juzkiw, Senior Associate Director of CELL and Director of ELSP, wrote that Mark has helped CELL to increase its visibility at Mizzou through his work with department heads on campus. Additionally, he has made international students more aware of CELL through leading and supporting several recruitment trips abroad, improving CELL’s website, and launching a Mizzou IEP Facebook page.

Professional. Mark also intends to increase visibility by having CELL become a member of UCIEP and complete the CEA accreditation process in the next 2 years.

5. Source of Wit, Charm, & Levity

Fun-lover. CELL instructor Patty Wayland noted that Mark “accepts and encourages fun in the workplace.”

Food-lover. Two of Mark’s colleagues from American University at Sharjah mentioned that he always had a bowl of M&Ms on his desk, which (obviously) added to his charm. Also, at CELL, Mark organizes faculty “elections” to establish the top Cadbury chocolate (UK vs. US) or brand of donut, thus creating a lighter atmosphere.

Amusing Organizer. At the end of the semester, when the CELL refrigerator needs to be cleaned, Mark says that “Ruthless Ruth” will come to do it (a friendly and funny way of saying he will throw out all leftover food).

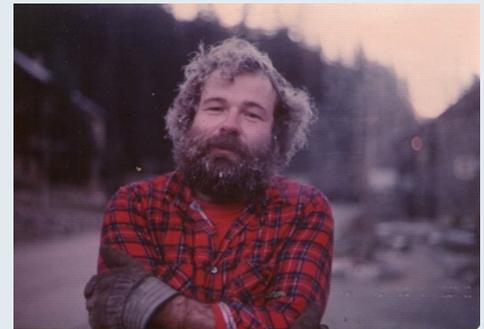
These are just a few of the many attributes that set Mark apart in the field of teaching English. He is a pleasure to work with, and it will be exciting to observe the positive effects from his contributions rippling out across many institutions, students, and colleagues in our field over the next 50 years.

Congratulations, Mark, on your 50 at 50 award!

About the author: Liza Armstrong is an instructor at the Center for English Language Learning at the University of Missouri-Columbia, where she works with Mark Algren. She is also the secretary of MIDTESOL and is grateful to the CELL staff and Mark’s former colleagues for their contributions to this article.



Mark with his "Best of 50" cake during a CELL party for him. Photo by IEP student Ahlam



Mark has been a "frontiersman" as a logger in Washington state and in the field of English language teaching. [Source: <https://missouriglobal.files.wordpress.com/2016/05/1.jpg?w=700>]

2016 TRAVEL AWARD WINNER

CHRISTY CONAWAY

Clipper City; Mobtown; the Monumental City; Baltimore, Maryland has many nicknames, but I think that the one that best describes my experience at the international TESOL conference is The City of Firsts. There I ate my first crab cake from Faidley's Seafood in Lexington Market, a downtown market that has been in business since 1782. I also got to ride in a water taxi around the inner harbor and to eat at a South African/Portuguese restaurant, both firsts for me. Of course, this was also the first time I'd been to Baltimore. I was fortunate enough to be chosen to receive the MIDTESOL travel award to attend the 50th conference of TESOL International where people from all over the global TESOL community come to share their best practices in teaching English. The atmosphere at the conference was full of energy and creativity, and I was able to learn new and interesting ways of teaching that have energized me to try new techniques and approaches in my own classroom.



MIDTESOL represents our region at the International convention

One of the highlights of the conference was the session called, "Phonological Awareness: What your Brain Doesn't Want you to Know." Karen Taylor was the presenter, and I felt like I was meeting a rock star. I work at the English Language Institute at Missouri State University, and we have been using the Color Vowel Chart system in our Speaking classes for the last year. Getting to meet the creator of these materials and hearing her ideas on how to use practical techniques for teaching English sounds was invaluable. I especially liked the way she taught us how to teach word stress using kazoos.

Another great session was called "Effective Student Conferencing Beyond Age, Gender, and Culture." In this workshop, we analyzed different aspects of a student-teacher conference that might present unintentional boundaries for student learning and how to overcome those impediments so that students can get the most out of their time with the teacher. I am always looking for ways to give more beneficial feedback, and these strategies for the one-on-one conference will help me manage those times with my students more effectively. Both inside the conference and out and about in Baltimore, I met fascinating people and was once again reminded of why I love my chosen profession so much.

Thank you MIDTESOL for providing me with this opportunity in the City of Firsts.

Increasing your Fan Base: Using Podcasts to Liven up ESL Lessons

Katie McClintic, CALL IS member

Introduction

Podcasts are weekly audio or video programs that you can listen to from both mobile devices and computers. Listeners can subscribe to podcasts for free so that each new episode automatically downloads each week. There are thousands of podcasts to choose from—just search based on any topic of interest from the podcast app that is included on most phone operating systems. While there are many podcasts available specifically for English language learners, non-ESL specific podcasts can be an engaging way to expose learners to authentic language use. Not only can they hear examples of natural, everyday English, learners will also be exposed to various aspects of American culture. Many of these podcasts also have an enthusiastic and extensive fan base, so a secondary benefit is that by listening to the podcasts, students will be able to contribute to the collective conversation as a way to engage with their American peers.

Recommended Podcasts

[Serial](#) tells a true-crime story over the course of 12 episodes. A journalist investigates a murder case in order to discover who killed a young high school student in 1999.

[This American Life](#) tells true stories in the life of everyday Americans. Each episode is based on a weekly theme and tells several stories related to the theme.

[RadioLab](#) discusses topics about “science, philosophy, and the human experience.” Each show is also based on a weekly theme, using a variety of stories to explore the theme.

[Grammar Girl](#) gives short explanations and tips about using English grammar. It also gives advice about how to improve your writing.

[VOA Learning English](#) podcasts are created especially for ESL students. Each story uses a limited vocabulary and a slower pace to support students who are learning English.

[TED Radio Hour](#) is a theme-centered show based on TED talks. This podcast explores those themes more in-depth with stories and speaker interviews.

[Invisibilia](#) “explores the intangible forces that shape human behavior – things like ideas, beliefs, assumptions and emotions. [This podcast focuses on human behavior,] interweaving narrative storytelling with fascinating new psychological and brain science.”

Suggestions for Using Podcasts with your Students

While podcasts themselves are essentially weekly recorded audio programs, with a little creativity they can become an effective and versatile teaching tool. These are but a few suggestions for ways to incorporate podcasts into your lessons:

Create a mobile language lab in your classroom.

Tell students to bring their mobile devices (phones or tablets) to class. Students can listen at their own pace for note-taking, answering questions, etc.

Create an individualized critical listening activity.

Have students listen to the same podcast on their personal mobile devices. While students listen, they can contribute their observations/questions about the content to a group brainstorming area. Teachers can also send out polls to mobile devices to gauge understanding and interest (Tools like [Poll Everywhere](#) or [Socrative](#) would work well with this type of activity.)

Create vocabulary focused listening activities. Encourage students to listen for key content words while listening to podcasts. Students can individually contribute to group word clouds while listening at their own pace. The more frequently individual students add the same word, the word will grow in size in the word cloud in real time. Teachers can use this information to create student-driven vocabulary activities. (Again, [Poll Everywhere](#) would be an effective tool for this type of activity.)

MIDTESOL IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE 2016 WINNERS OF OUR ANNUAL BEST STUDENT ESSAY CONTESTS.

This year's conference and essay theme: "Innovation and Improvisation".

Winner of the Best ESL Student Essay: *Manou Maeva Boko*

She is a student at the University of Missouri's Center for English Language Learning. Her sponsoring teacher is Mary Browning.



Winners of the Best K-12 Essay:

Jackson Wong – 1st place

Doriane Hesseng Ndoutoume – 2nd place

Mawra Fazal – 3rd place

All three are from Ames High School. The sponsoring teacher is Kendall Schuldt.

THE AWARDS COMMITTEE THANKS EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED AND WANTS TO OFFER A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL THE INSTRUCTORS WHO ENCOURAGED THEIR STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS CONTEST.

Importance of Creativity in Education

by Manou Maeva Boko (Best ESL Student Essay Winner)

University of Missouri – Center for English Language Learning – Intensive English Program

Looking ten years back, I notice that we live in a world that has substantially changed faster at almost all levels: economical, educational, environmental, social, and technological, and we also face exceptional new challenges. I even remember using keypad cell phones, huge desktops, and handwriting letters for communications means. However, now, most people have smartphones, the Internet, other sophisticated gadgets, and even electronic airways for communication that make life easier. In other words, the quality of life has become fancier compared to that in the past. All of these new changes are made by people who tend to generate or recognize ideas, alternatives, or possibilities that may be useful in solving problems, communicating with others, and entertaining ourselves. These are people who own creativity. Moving forward, we should be concerned about “creativity” in the education of students. Given the importance of creativity in today’s world, formal education can encourage creativity and improve the development of creativity through teachers who help students in many ways.

Creativity is a process of having original ideas that have values for individuals and society. A big part of being creative is looking for new ways of doing new things within whatever activities people are involved in order to deal with new challenges. Thus, a successfully creative person is a person who has genuinely useful new ideas. For example, by inventing cell phones and discovering light, respectively Alexander Graham Bell and Thomas Edison elucidated challenges in the past between humans and electricity. This creativity is important because it helps solve problems through invention, creation, and discovery.

The challenges we are facing currently, however, are without standard. The world's population has doubled in the past 20 years. We are facing an increasing strain on the world's natural resources. Technology is advancing at an impetuous rate of speed transforming how people work, think, and connect. To continue living in this world in peace, people will have to discover new strategies and use exciting concepts to unravel the problems. That means people will need to use their creativity and their mental thinking to discover useful methods. For instance, in order to reduce the use of coal for energy, people discovered that even sidewalks can be used to conserve energy if people walk a lot. Therefore, creativity is essential in the sense that it pushes people to invent, to be creative, and to discover. In fact, without creativity, scientists would not have created, invented, and discovered all the techniques, strategies, and equipment in medicine that allow people to be healthy and live longer. Another result of creativity is the enhancement of communication. Some people are not good at expressing themselves with words. They may prefer using other ways to communicate such as art, dance and poems. To be able to do that, people usually call on their spirit of creativeness due to the fact that they must think intensively about how to convey exactly their messages in an unspoken way. That is why creativity is fundamental.

Formal education assembles the learning of students at schools and universities. As a matter of fact, formal education *encourages* the creativity of students. When I was in high school, in the Ivory Coast, in addition to the basic subjects (mathematics, science, physics, etc), I had music, dance, and art, which are subjects where students could keenly express their creativity and imagination. Also, formal education helps students to develop creative thinking by teaching its basic skills while a professor teaches people to read and write. These basic skills can free up the way people approach problems—skills of divergent thinking, for example, inspire creativity through the use of analogies, metaphors, and visual thinking. This is creativity because it helps students think beyond their everyday comprehension. For instance, in my English speaking class, we did a simulation in which my teacher required me to argue about the opposite idea of what I believe, and it help me considerably in the way that now, I decided not to stereotype.

Creativity is a key component for survival and flexibility of human. Understanding, identifying, and nurturing the creative potential is relevant in education if we want to enable students to solve academic and personal problems and challenges, to find innovative solutions, and have the resources necessary for success in a fast-changing world.

An Innovative Person that I Admire

By Jackson Wong (1st Place Winner: Best K-12 Essay Contest)

Ames High School

Thomas Edison is an innovative person that I admire. Thomas Edison was one of the most famous inventors in the world. He invented more than a thousand things. Some of his inventions like light bulbs, phonograph, and motion picture camera are still used in many different ways. His inventions still influence the way we live today. He was one of the most persevering, creative, and striving people in history.

Even though he is a successful person, he failed more than ten thousand times. Thomas Edison said "I have not failed, I have just found ten thousand ways that won't work" (<http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/t/thomasaed132683.html>). However he accepted failure. He tried to find a way to solve the problems and realized that it is something as normal as success. The light bulb took him multiple tries to develop a successful one. He tried so many times to find filaments for the light bulb such as plastic, but through doing that he learned which filaments not to use. After all his failures he was able to discover the perfect type of filaments to use. His success was made possible due to the many times that he failed in finding the perfect filaments. The light bulb shows how failing multiple times can lead to success. Therefore he learned how to fail before he learn how to succeed.

The other reason I admire him is he stuck to things. When he invented the light bulb, he tried many types of filaments to make the light bulb work reliably. He could work on his invention all day, and only sleep a few hours. He never gave up. If he couldn't get something to work he would go and try something else until it did not matter how long it took he would try and try again. Edison said "there is no substitute for hard work" (<http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/t/thomasaed131293.html>). Because he believed hard work is extremely important that even if you don't have talent, it can be compensated with hard work. There is no substitute for hard work. It is the stepping stone to success. It is his other reason for success.

The last reason I admire him is he said "Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration" (<http://www.phrases.org.uk/meanings/genius-is-one-percent-perspiration-ninety-nine-percent-perspiration.html>). When he was working he showed the importance of hard work and determination. This quote inspired me even though I am not a genius, if I work hard I will get something. It is an effective way for him to encourage everyone regardless of their ability. Hard work is much more essential to success than just being smart. Because the road to success is through struggle, hard work, and sweat. To achieve success is not easy, it is very difficult.

In conclusion, Thomas Edison was a great person who improved our life with his unbelievable invention. His personal qualities led him to success, eventually he tried many times and he invented the light bulb. He was a great inspiration to many people today including me. If he didn't invent the lightbulb who knows what would happen today?

Are you interested in getting involved with an IS?

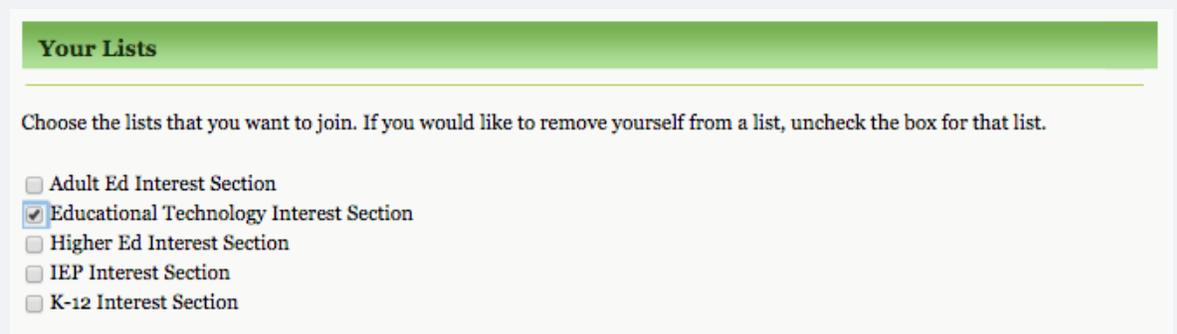
Here's what to do:

1. Edit your profile setting in your membership file accessible from the midtesol.org site, or at <https://www.cvent.com/Events/ContactPortal/Login.aspx?cwstub=19255e93-37d9-4d38-ac7d-2ac8779a50d1>



The screenshot shows the MIDTESOL Membership Website profile page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with "Follow" and "Logout" options. The main content area features the MIDTESOL logo, which consists of a stylized globe with the text "MidAmerica Teachers of English" above it and "to Speakers of Other Languages" below it. The word "MIDTESOL" is prominently displayed in the center. Below the logo, there is a section titled "MIDTESOL Membership Website" with three buttons: "Edit", "Purchase Membership", and "Change Password". A message below the buttons reads: "Please take a moment to update any out of date information." On the left side, there is a sidebar menu with the following items: "Information", "My Profile", "My Events", "Member Directory", "Conference Proceedings", and "MIDTESOL Member Benefits". The "Information" section is currently selected and highlighted in green. Below the message, there is a section titled "Personal Information" which is also highlighted in green.

2. Choose Interest Sections to get involved with:



The screenshot shows the "Your Lists" section of the MIDTESOL Membership Website. The section is titled "Your Lists" and has a green header. Below the header, there is a message: "Choose the lists that you want to join. If you would like to remove yourself from a list, uncheck the box for that list." Below the message, there is a list of interest sections with checkboxes:

- Adult Ed Interest Section
- Educational Technology Interest Section
- Higher Ed Interest Section
- IEP Interest Section
- K-12 Interest Section

3. Start receiving and sharing great info about the field!

Announcement From the Board:

MIDTESOL would like to recognize the contributions of our members to the association of which we are an affiliate, TESOL International. We will be posting this information on our website in honor of TESOL's 50th anniversary celebration in 2016 and would ask that any MIDTESOL member who has presented, been published, volunteered, or otherwise served TESOL in a leadership capacity since TESOL's inception please fill out the following survey (<http://goo.gl/forms/q2VwWPNxdT>).



About our Organization

MIDTESOL is a professional organization, an affiliate of International TESOL, whose goal is to support teachers and enhance the teaching of English to Speakers of Other Languages.

MIDTESOL Matters is a quarterly publication and is distributed to subscribers and dues-paying members of MIDTESOL. Articles, Teaching Tips, and Reviews are welcome from all members. The editor reserves the right to edit for space, clarity, or editorial balance. Materials published in MIDTESOL Matters become the property of MIDTESOL and could be shared with other TESOL affiliate organizations.

Expressed opinions do not necessarily reflect the views of MIDTESOL, TESOL, or the MIDTESOL Executive Board.

Our Mission

The mission of Mid-America Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages is to foster excellence in English language learning in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska to people whose native language is a language other than English while respecting their individual language rights. As a regional affiliate of TESOL and a professional organization, MIDTESOL:

- Supports those involved with English language teaching, teacher education, administration and management, curriculum and materials design, and research
- Provides leadership and direction through the dissemination and exchange of information and resources
- Encourages access to the standards for English language instruction, professional preparation, and employment

Contact Us

Reach us with any questions about MIDTESOL

Visit us on the web at www.midtesol.org