

**Title of Session:** Euro Language Teachers Forum

**Moderator:** Bee Dieu

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Room: ASO

BeeD joined the room.

BJ waves hi to Bee and Whitney

BeeD: Hello Whitney! Welcome to another Euro Language Forum.

BeeD: Have you been to Tapped In before?

WhitneyF: No, actually I haven't

BeeD: What brings you here today?

WhitneyF: I am in an EdTech internet class and one of my assignment is to join on in a discussion and I choose this one

BeeD smiles

BeeD: What made you choose the Euro Language Forum?

WhitneyF: I am actually interested in learning about web-based methods for language learning. I am a Spanish minor and think that I would like to teach in a second language learning environment. I am also interested in using technology into my classroom

BeeD: Right...have you had any experience in teaching foreign languages?

WhitneyF: I was a teacher assistant in a bilingual kindergarten classroom.

BeeD: And how did it go?

WhitneyF: Well, I was actually in the classroom before I knew a lot of Spanish so it was difficult teaching in another language. However, being in that classroom inspired me to become a Spanish minor and then I decided to study abroad in Spain.

BeeD: How interesting! Where and how long did you stay in Spain?

WhitneyF: I lived in Madrid for 5 months. It was the best experience of my life!

BeeD: Did you follow a language course there?

WhitneyF: I took 5 different Spanish courses while I was there. I had a grammar, cultural, language, vocabulary and history course (all taught in Spanish).

WhitneyF: Since I have not yet attended one of these discussions yet, I am not familiar with the procedures. Could you guide me along?

BJ: You're doing great, Whitney!

BeeD: Well...although there are only the three of us here today...we usually start by introducing ourselves

BJ: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania, Whitney

WhitneyF: What grade level?

BJ: High school

BeeD: Barbara Dieu is EFL (English as a Foreign Language) teacher at the lycee Pasteur, a Franco-Brazilian school in Sao Paulo, Brazil...and your host tonight

BeeD: I do junior and high school

WhitneyF: Wow

BJ . o O ( in Whitney's case, it's early afternoon, Bee )

BeeD: Yes...I always get all mixed up...it's past five pm here

WhitneyF: Oh, I see

WhitneyF: Yes, It's about 1pm here

BJ: Whitney, this is a wonderful opportunity to learn about language teaching from an experienced person

BeeD: So...are you planning to teach Spanish to American kids or English to Spanish-speaking kids?

WhitneyF: Yes, I am very interested in the topic, I had two courses on teaching ELL learners this past semester in my credential program

BeeD: What level would you be teaching?

WhitneyF: I would love to do either. It is kind of frustrating though because since I have been back from Spain I feel that I have lost some of my language skills and I don't know if I would be able to teach Spanish to America kids

WhitneyF: I am interested in teaching elementary grades K-5

BeeD: You just have to practice...enter a community of practice

BeeD: and keep contact with the people you met there

BeeD: communication in language teaching is a must

WhitneyF: Yes, I know I would pick it up easily if I worked at it

WhitneyF: I learned so much more at there in 5 months than I did in the States with 6 different Spanish courses. It was because I constantly spoke the language and communicated with others

BeeD: Exactly! and this is what you have to keep in mind when you teach your students...the more communication you have, the more they learn WhitneyF: So you teach English as a foreign language?

BeeD: Yes...to Franco-Brazilian students

WhitneyF: What made you decide to enter this career?

BeeD: I have the enormous advantage of having students who are bilingual

BeeD: the more languages you speak, the easier it is to learn more

WhitneyF: Yes, that is what I've heard

WhitneyF: I am amazed at people who know so many languages. I find it very challenging to

learn just one!! How many languages do you speak?

BeeD: I had never thought I would become a teacher one day...it just happened...and now when I look 30 years backwards I see I have taken the right road

BeeD: I speak 4

WhitneyF: Which ones?

BeeD: Polish, Portuguese, English and French. I have a good understanding of Spanish

WhitneyF: That's awesome

WhitneyF: So what techniques do you use to help your students?

BeeD: So...about 6 years ago I discovered the net...and from then on have never stopped learning

BJ: Whitney, your best teachers are lifelong learners!

WhitneyF: That's right

BeeD: When you teach you must take into account a number of factors...your best guide is usually plain common sense

WhitneyF: How do you incorporate the net into your teaching style?

BeeD: the kind of students you have, the hours you teach, classroom management, etc...technology helps you if you have it at school...but never forget the teacher is the most important element

WhitneyF: Right, every situation is different

BeeD: You can use the net to reproduce what you had beforehand in a classroom or library (lesson plans, quizzes, research) or use it to communicate or do collaborative work...and this is where lies most of its interest

WhitneyF: Do you ever have your students communicate with other students around the world?

BeeD: Yes...this is very interesting...I am in charge of Classroom Twinning for This is Our Time project

BeeD: So...I have a lesson plan teachers from different countries follow

BeeD: This year I had one on Stereotypes

WhitneyF: And how does it work?

BJ: can we see the url, Bee?

BeeD: you can have a look at it

at:[http://members.tripod.com/the\\_english\\_dept/stereo1.html](http://members.tripod.com/the_english_dept/stereo1.html)

BJ: click on that url to open a new window, Whitney

BeeD: So this is a plain lesson plan that various teachers followed with their classes around the world....the second step was voicing the stereotypes kids had of participating countries...and this was done through forums

BeeD: You can find the result of the forums at:

<http://www.timeproject.org/activities/twinning2003/forum1/default.asp>

BeeD: You see different classes, from different countries posted the images they had of other participating countries...click on one to see

BeeD: The brainstorming is done in class...students are in groups of 3 or 4 and then we collect all the images that came up and post them on the forum

WhitneyF: It looks to be very successful, how did you feel about the project?

BeeD: Kids loved it...the third phase was asking questions for the classes to answer...so you can check this at:

BeeD:

[http://www.timeproject.org/activities/twinning2003/forum1/forum.asp?forum\\_id=14&forum\\_title=International+Friendships+and+Intercultural+Learning](http://www.timeproject.org/activities/twinning2003/forum1/forum.asp?forum_id=14&forum_title=International+Friendships+and+Intercultural+Learning)

BeeD: the students post the questions and answer them...so at this phase they interact with others

BeeD: Forums are interesting in this case because they are asynchronous...so students can post their messages any time and students from different time zones answer them when they can or have access to the net

WhitneyF: How did you come up with this idea and how did you create this project?

BeeD: This is Our Time Project is a Dutch project I represent...they had already a number of activities...and the forums were one of them...but they only happened once a year on a given subject

WhitneyF: Oh, I see

BeeD: I suggested transforming them into a year-long activity with lesson plans which would stimulate intercultural understanding

BeeD: But this is just one of many that exist

WhitneyF: That is so interesting

WhitneyF: And the kids love it and are excited to get involved?

BeeD: You have for instance a great site which offers lots of ideas

BeeD: <http://www.globalschoolnet.org/about/index.html>

BeeD: There are a number of international projects they sponsor

WhitneyF: Great- thanks for that site

BeeD: Another great site for international projects is

BeeD: <http://www.iearn.org/>

BJ: Whitney, there is also a monthly discussion here in Tapped In on Global Project Based Learning

BJ: there will be a GPBL event during the 2003 TI2 Launch Festival on July 16

WhitneyF: Good to know, I will check the calendar

BeeD: Tapped In is a great place to come and learn and find what we need WhitneyF:

Yes, how long have you both been members?

BeeD: There is also a session on Web Tools

BeeD: and Virtual Field Trips

WhitneyF: What are web tools?

BJ: I've been a member of Tapped In for over 5 years

BeeD: Let me give you a nice site with tools

BeeD: I use it very often

BeeD: <http://www.4teachers.org>

BeeD: and it also has resources in Spanish

WhitneyF: great..thanks

BJ: WebTools is a discussion led by Pam Berger. She introduces interesting tools that you

can use to facilitate communication and teachubf BJ . o O ( teaching )

BJ: Pam's site is at [www.infosearcher.com](http://www.infosearcher.com)

BeeD: Thanks for the link BJ...must add it to my teacher resources page

BeeD: I always learn something new here

BJ: I just got Pam's blurb for her July webtools session today:

BJ: Join us to look at three curriculum-based Web sites collaboratively developed by school librarians and classroom teachers. Explore the world of seahorses, visit Nigeria and learn about the connections between Buddha images and the beliefs and practices of Buddhism.

BeeD: So...any questions Whitney?

WhitneyF: Nope, you have really helped me and given me much more insight and resources into telecollaborative lessons. Thank you so much for your help!!

BeeD: You are welcome...and I hope we will see you here more often

BeeD: and that you will be in a short time sharing what you have with us

WhitneyF: I hope to do that

WhitneyF: Thanks again

BJ: This will be the last Eurolang discussion until September, Whitney, but there are lots of other discussions scheduled on the Tapped In calendar

WhitneyF: I will check them out

BJ: Thanks, Bee. Great discussion!

BeeD: Thank you for coming!

BJ waves bye to Whitney and Bee.  
BeeD waves back