

Title of Session: Writing for Webheads

Moderator: Margaret Doty

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Room: Tapped In Reception

PennyRa joined the room.

MargaretD: Hi Penny

VictorE: I teach special education, to emotionally disturbed students, who are at least one to two years behind in most academic areas. I could use a good book or techniques to teach English. Any suggestions?

MargaretD: What language do they speak as mother tongue?

PennyRa : How do I get in to the scheduled Writing For Webheads

MargaretD: right here Penny

MargaretD: just getting started

SarathS: There was a web based course for teaching languages in such situations

SarathS: let me see whether any books are referred

SarathS: Are U a member of LDRC, penny?

PennyRa : I don't even know what it is?

MargaretD: Sarath is from Sri Lanka but in the US and I teach business English in Germany

SarathS: Well its an online resource for teaching learning disabled at <http://www.ldrc.ca/>

RobinK: I am a student at University of Houston going back to school for my teacher's certificate... hope to teach Biology in upper grades

SarathS: there's a "Teaching Literacy Course (LDRC Literacy Stream)", going on right now

MargaretD: nice to meet you Robin

PennyRa : That sounds very interesting. My college professor said a trip is coming up to give us a chance to teach English in Poland, but I don't think I'll get to go.

VictorE: **SarathS:** Thank you for the resource, I will look it up later.

MargaretD: it would be interesting

SarathS: I just looked the page <http://www.ldrc.ca/> gives details of the online course

MargaretD: most Polish have not learned English in school

SarathS: Also gives details about 'Atutor', a free online course designing software

MargaretD: I have a Polish trainee, but she has lived some time in Germany

PennyRa : She said her husband came from there and she visited a first grade class. Many could ask her questions in English. They mostly want to hear English spoken by Americans.

SarathS: what would be the 2nd language for a Pole, if any?

MargaretD: used to be Russian

MargaretD: sometimes German

SarathS: Yes, German makes more sense

MargaretD: Russian does, too

SarathS: Yes, true

MargaretD: but now they have joined the EU they need English

PennyRa : Ok- the title of this session was World Friendship Through Language Learning - so exactly what do all of you discuss in here? Or do you have some interesting websites?

RobinK: It seems like people from other countries learn to speak English easily as compared to us Americans learning their languages

MargaretD: we have essentially free discussions

RobinK: Houston is a very international city but especially the kids learn English very quickly just going to school

MargaretD: this is true Robin...many countries now start in Kindergarten

VictorE: Sarath or Margaret, do you feel that English is slowly becoming a universal language?

MargaretD: it is already Victor

SarathS: It is the international link language, I feel

MargaretD: only the varieties vary

RobinK: we do have some kindergarten classes that are taught in Spanish and children that are not native speaking Spanish are in those classes with kids that are

SarathS: many countries still have French and Spanish as 2nd language, due to historical reasons

MargaretD: more second language speakers than native

PennyRa : Any suggestions for teaching English to Hispanic and other foreign students? A good website for some simple English stories that it will also read to students in English is www.starfall.com. They also gladly send free materials.

MargaretD: there are a lot of free sites for material

MargaretD: www.onestopenglish.com for example

RobinK: I have a friend that teaches math to ESL (English as second Language) classes in high school. She has told me she goes to library for translation dictionaries a lot.

MargaretD: the BBC has some interesting things

SarathS: BBC has some good multi media materials, too

MargaretD: the best is to get them to stop translating as soon as possible

RobinK: I am so surprised at all the information that is available on line..... I had no idea until I started back to college!!!!

MargaretD: yes, a real gem!

MargaretD: there is a magazine here in Germany called Spotlight and they have a wonderful site now

MargaretD: also for their Business magazine. too

PennyRa : The starfall website will send booklets on a 1st grade level that are in color for free. I usually send for a whole class set.

SarathS: Yes, unbelievable the resources on the web

PennyRa : WWW.Educationworld.com is great too-it has free worksheets that you can print off.

MargaretD: especially nice is you don't have to feel alone

MargaretD: like here at TI you will meet other educators

SarathS: there's something I would like to ask about how one use the web, if you please

RobinK: do you feel the web has helped teachers add more variety and get help from other knowledgeable educators?

SarathS: Do you use different search engines/techniques for different types of resources

MargaretD: I think so

SarathS: The web really has helped teachers

SarathS: Especially so in remote areas of the world

RobinK: I have found you get different sites if you use different search engines

SarathS: where teachers just do not have numbers and experts around

MargaretD: I belong to the listserv TESL and have access to at least 30,000 teachers worldwide for ideas

MargaretD: I get most of my websites from other teachers

SarathS: and for those teachers in remote corners, the web brings resources that were not dreamt of earlier

MargaretD: yes you do Robin

RobinK: it really helps to bounce ideas off others and to learn from their mistakes so you don't have to make them yourself

MargaretD: I have my favorites depending on what I am looking for

SarathS: So does any have favourite search techniques?

SarathS: opps

PennyRa : I just read an article about the web redefining the concept of literacy.

SarathS: and the concepts of knowledge

MargaretD: well, I think it is mega cool to speak with teachers in Mongolia for example

VictorE: **MargaretD** and **SarathS**, thanks for sharing and the chat. signing off **VictorE**.

RobinK: We did a whole lesson on search engines and how to use them in my Technology in the Classroom Class

SarathS: take care victor

PennyRa : I have a hard time finding the great websites on my own. I usually have to ask friends and they share one they've found and I share ones that I've found.

MargaretD: bye Victor

BjB: that networking is important, Penny

SarathS: that's what I was meaning Penny, searching the web is a drag

SarathS: and some real gems are so deep within sites that searches do not bring them out

BjB . o O (and is what one of the primary functions of the Tapped In community serves)

PennyRa : Often, my professors share great sites too.

MargaretD: that's why I get most of mine recommended by other teachers

RobinK: My technology teacher has gotten sneaky she used her students to help find new sites

SarathS: does anybody here use merlot ?

VictorE left the room (signed off).

PennyRa : That sounds like a good idea. We just have so few computers.

BjB . o O (www.merlot.org ?)

PennyRa : What is merlot?

SarathS: yes **BjB**

BjB: good resource

MargaretD: yes

RobinK: what is it?

SarathS: its a directory of resources for education

SarathS: try <http://www.merlot.org/Home.po>

BjB nods to Sarath...went there by default

RobinK: ...looks like a great reference site

PennyRa : It seemed kind of hard to find something I would want. What do you look under?

SarathS: That's the issue, most of those links are buried deep within university sites

BjB: try entering ESL in the search box

BjB: Vance Stevens also has created a Virtual Learning Center...

BjB: <http://www.mli.ac.ae/vlrc/t2t2003.htm>

PennyRa : That site is great. I found an ESL lab that will read stories. Thanks for the tip.

RobinK: this looks like another great resource

SarathS: that's a good one

BjB: You also might want to participate in Sunday afternoon's EuroLang discussion

BjB : o O (last one for the year)

PennyRa : That ESL site is fun. I'm enjoying listening to the stories.

BjB: company is here...talk to you later

RobinK: by BjB happy holiday's

SarathS: bye

MargaretD: bye Sarath

PennyRa : That was an interesting website too.

SarathS: bye, see you later

SarathS left the room (signed off).

MargaretD stopped to smell BJ's turkey

MargaretD: smells great

RobinK: this has been a great discussion, It is likely I will have ESL students in my classes so now I have some resources to use.

PennyRa : Any more interesting websites?

MargaretD: now I'm hungry

RobinK: I'm headed to the grocery store after this do you need something Margaret?

MargaretD: no, need to make dinner

RobinK: What time is it there?

MargaretD: but thank you Robin

MargaretD: 5.45 pm

PennyRa : Now- where are you Margaret?

MargaretD: Germany

RobinK: Are you a native of Germany or a transplant?

PennyRa : It's 11:49 A.M. here in Atlanta, Georgia.

MargaretD: American but lived here 25 years

PennyRa : Why did you move to Germany?

MargaretD: came from England because it was closer to skiing in Austria

RobinK: I'm off Thanks for the great discussion!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

MargaretD: bye Robin and thanks for coming

RobinK left the room (signed off).

PennyRa : I've only skied once and I wasn't very good. There's not enough snow here to bother anyway.

MargaretD: there is in Austria but I don't ski any more

PennyRa : why not?

MargaretD: I have MS

MargaretD: can't any more

PennyRa : My pastor at church has that too - he says it makes him very tired.

MargaretD: I got over that

MargaretD: can't walk any more

PennyRa : I guess other than that he hasn't had it too bad. He hasn't had it very long.

MargaretD: I've had it 10 years

MargaretD: but was normal for 7{

PennyRa : I think he's known about his for two or three years.

MargaretD: he should try ginseng for feeling tired

PennyRa : I really don't know that much about it.

MargaretD: autoimmune

PennyRa : Did it work for you? I'll have to mention it to him.

MargaretD: sure did

PennyRa : I don't think he takes a thing but just tries to rest.

MargaretD: I take naps, too.....but no medication

PennyRa : I guess that's good - I suppose medicine would have so many other side effects. I'm not sure if he is on medication.

MargaretD: everyone reacts differently

MargaretD: I hate the side effects of most of it

MargaretD: that weakens your immune system

PennyRa : I'm sure it will catch up with him sooner or later but I would rather he take a rest because he means a lot to me.

MargaretD: you have to learn to live within your abilities

PennyRa : I'm sure that can be hard at times.

MargaretD: yes, it is frustrating

PennyRa : I guess it's time for me to go. I'll pray for you.

MargaretD: I use to be such a whirlwind before

MargaretD: thank you!

MargaretD: come again Penny

PennyRa : See ya!

MargaretD: bye

MargaretD: enjoy your turkey BJ!

PennyRa left the room (signed off).

MargaretD smells the air

MargaretD: ciao!