
ISSUE 16
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This newsletter is brought to you by
Maris Hawkins and Stacey
Margarita Johnson



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WHILE YOU'RE WAITING FOR THE NEXT
WTL PODCAST EPISODE TO COME OUT...



Preview of the Next Episode

EPISODE 57: CLIC RESOURCES, TALKABROAD, AND
ONLINE TEACHING WITH FLORENCIA HENSHAW

This Friday, we are excited to introduce you to the Director of the Center for Language Instruction and Coordination, or CLIC, at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Dr. Florencia Henshaw tells us about the resources CLIC can offer teachers, as well as some of her own research into online tools and practices. If you have any interest in using technology to foster virtual exchange or communicative ability, you will definitely want to tune in on Friday!

TalkAbroad...is the best use of
technology for language learning.
The fact that we can connect with
native speakers, and students can
have these conversations, that was
unthinkable many years ago.

-Dr. Florencia Henshaw



RESPONSE TO EPISODE 56: MARTINA BEX

This week's episode reaction is from WTL contributor and episode 31 guest, Maris Hawkins (@marishawkins).

I listened to Martina Bex's episode recently with my son who now wants to visit Clifford's house!

We can all relate to looking at a textbook and seeing childish drawings or outdated photographs with the vocabulary section that may or may not have a story with it, followed by a two-page splashy layout with beautiful pictures from a target culture and descriptions all in English. I know that for me, hearing Martina speak about how she used comprehensible input to write about cultural events was a breakthrough. I first heard her discuss this a few years ago at a conference, and I hope that others felt the same way listening to this episode of the podcast.

Martina has empowered teachers to think of ways to talk about the fascinating parts of the culture in Spanish and help students acquire more Spanish in the process. Teachers are also able to infuse their passions in the target language as well. Love art? Talk about art and artists. Love history? Include some important historical events. Sports, TV shows and fashion can all be discussed in the target language. Then, by leveraging these readings, students are able to discuss more or write more about a variety of topics. By incorporating more culture, foreign language class can become more engaging.

If you visit Martina's blog, you can see just how she does this with a wide range of topics from World Down Syndrome Day to a man who was selling fake coins as Bitcoins. Check out her writing and, using her tips, spend some time this summer reflecting on your favorite cultural happenings and write some pieces about them. I have found that many times I will be able to use one piece of writing in at least two levels. I can't wait to see how Martina's interview also inspires others to continue this work!

Share your ideas and projects with us on Twitter, Facebook, or in the comments for this episode!

Interested in reading more from Martina?

- How to start with CI
- Collection of story activities
- Cooperative Learning activities
- Develop assessments for success

Reactions to past episodes:



MJ
JUNE 8, 2018 AT 3:28 PM

I'm so glad that you hosted Martina. She's great at going to the basics and helping teachers feel comfortable about taking small steps.



Sra. T
@SraTrimmer

Following

Replying to @weteachlang @HeatherWAllen

Bg takeaways- Model writings in TL expose Ss to culturally diff text organization. Textual borrowing encouraged. Highlight what's borrowed in draft to cite. Staple writer's wkshop reflection pcs. Guided process helps Ss create honest (no G trans!) quality presentational writing.

Angie lafrate This was very helpful! I love using Martina's readings, songs activities, and units in my classroom, where I am required to teach out of a grammar-heavy book but am free to supplement. I have relied too much on Martina's materials (as opposed to creating my own) out of time restrictions but have a goal this summer (you know, because we teachers are "off" for two months!) to create some of my own readings and activities in a similar style and which match my vision and objectives for my courses. Thanks to both of you for sharing!



World Language Classroom
June 7 at 5:00pm · 🌐

Great insight on writing in the target language. I particularly like the idea of having students reflect on their errors and mistakes in native language to show they fundamentally understand why and how to improve moving forward. We Teach Languages <https://weteachlang.com/.../ep-55-with-heather-willis-allen/>



Tam
@MmeTamWilson

Following

Found another great language teachers podcast! I just need to get my reports done so I have time to listen! weteachlang.com/?contact-form-... ... #fslchat #langchat #mfltwitterati #GILT_FB #smcdsb_FSL

Updates from Past Contributors



Ryuko Kubota (episode 43) has been traveling to different conferences and documenting her journey. She has been to TESOL in Chicago and AERA in New York.



Justin Slocum Bailey (episode 26) wrote a follow-up blog post after he went to Mitten CI. He shares a video that explains a new idea and brain break called Image Imitation or Fotos en Vivo.