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Supporting English Learners in Your Online Courses

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SUPPORTING ENGLISH LEARNERS IN YOUR ONLINE COURSE

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2017 PASSHE



A little about ME!



POLL

HOW COMFORTABLE ARE YOU SUPPORTING
ENGLISH LEARNERS IN YOUR COURSES?

1- Not at all

2- Somewhat

3- Very

Agenda

- Background
- Cultural Influences
- Academic Language
- Teaching Strategies for Teaching English Learners in Online Courses

Background

- 1 million international students
- $\frac{1}{4}$ of post-secondary students are enrolled in online courses
- Entrance Exams



(Open Doors 2016 “Fast Facts” & Smith, 2016)

Cultural Influences

- Increased needs of English as a Second Language (ESL)/English Learners (EL)
- Culturally unique vocabulary
- Frame of reference
- Feelings of isolation

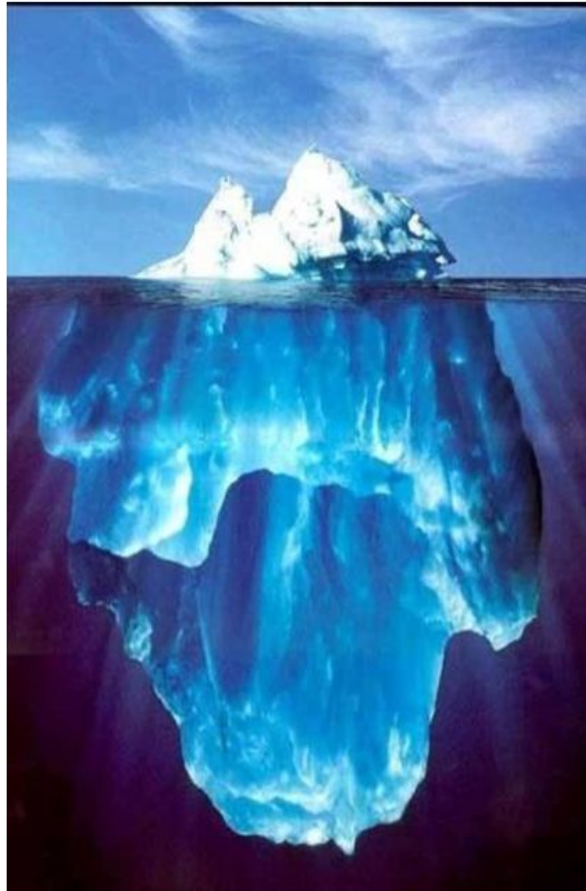


(de la Varre, Keane, & Irvin, 2011 & Kwon, 2009)

Academic Language

■ BICS & CALP

Iceberg

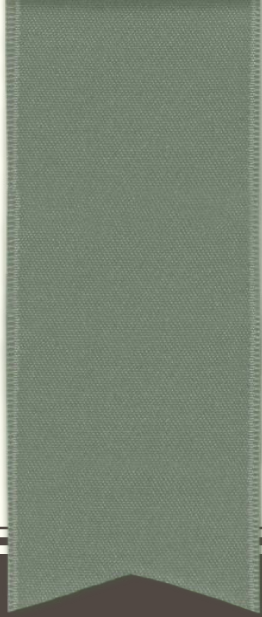


BICS (1-2 years)

- Basic Interpersonal Communication Skills
- Surface level – Here and Now
 - Familiar Content
 - Face to Face Conversation
 - High Frequency Vocabulary – 2000 words
 - Simple Sentence Structure
 - Low Pressure

CALP (5 or more years)

- Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency
- Experience and exposure to culture
 - Lectures, formal, written text, specialized terminology, humour, culture, idioms, textbook language, social appropriateness, non-verbal communications
 - Limited Interaction (textbook)
 - More Abstract
 - Less familiar content
 - Decontextualized
 - Low frequency Vocabulary
 - High Stakes (lots of pressure)



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Personal Experiences/Atmosphere

- Draw on personal experiences
- Reflect
- Technical problems
- Online community atmosphere

“the authenticity of human relationships is always in question in cyberspace, because of the masking and distancing of the medium, in a way that it is not in question in real life.”



Howard Rheingold

Collaboration



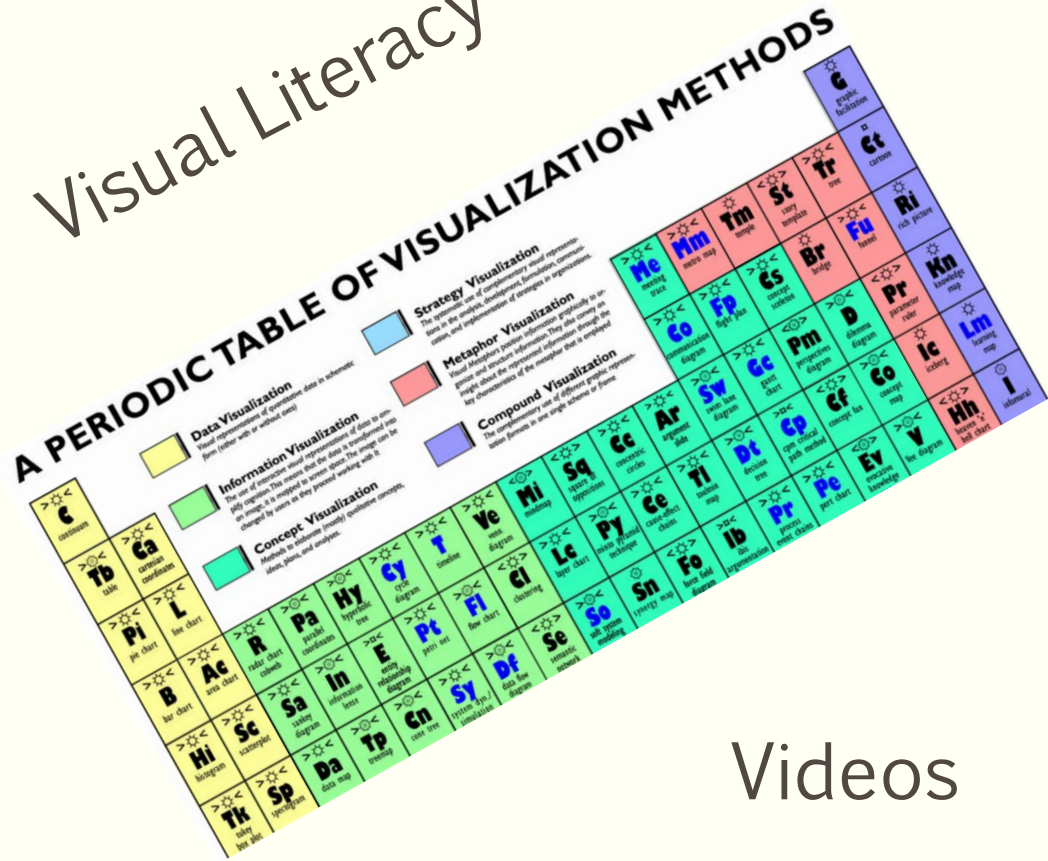
Yellowdig

- Social Interaction
 - Group Work
 - Discussions
- Collaborative Tools

- Challenges
 - Uncooperative groups



Visual Literacy



PPT/Lecture Notes

Infographics



Videos

Podcasts



Cartoons

What are some ways you create content that supports English Learners in your courses?

Resources

- Use LMS tools
 - Chat
 - Groups
 - Collaborate
 - Embedded External Tools
 - Adobe Connect
 - Break out groups
- Office Hours
- Writing Centers/Tutors

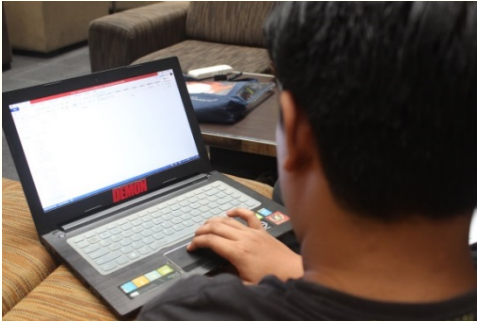


Questions to Ask about Tech Integration

- Will this help students think and learn more deeply?
- Will this lead to technology struggle and frustration?
- How can this empower students to control their own learning?
- Did I start with purpose and pedagogy?
- Is this relevant for today's world?
- What happens if the technology doesn't work?

How can you leverage your LMS tools to support ELs in your online courses?

Wrap Up



? punctuation
! adjective ;
English
noun verb





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