## Flex Day October 21, 2019 Joyce Podevyn and Leslie Payne

## Instructional Tips to Help English Language Learners



- 1. Students are not always prepared to read and comprehend material in the textbooks. Help them by asking questions such as who wrote this material? Why is this information important? Is all of the information presented equally important?
- 2. Teach important information three times in three different ways on three different days. This will ensure that students are processing the important information.
- 3. Show goals before you teach, and then check in at the end of class. If students feel they reached the goals, this will increase student confidence.
- 4. Use different strategies to get student feedback.
- 5. Do online quizzes that can be repeated for higher grades.
- 6. Provide written and oral directions for activities.
- 7. Provide written notes after class to fill in the gaps.
- 8. Show examples of desired outcomes such as an example paper or discussion notes.
- 9. Make group work task oriented so everyone has to participate.
- 10. Know that background knowledge is not a given. Ask questions about assumptions the writer makes about the readers' knowledge.

- 11. Explain that mistakes are good. Students learn a lot from their mistakes, and they are more likely to remember information when they make errors.
- 12. Use a lot of visuals: show and tell.
- 13. Encourage study groups outside of class. Give extra-credit for study group meetings. Meet with study groups during office hours.
- 14. Ask ESL teachers for help on assignments that didn't work out as well as you thought they would.
- 15. Be aware that international references are different from American references (Vietnam War = American War).