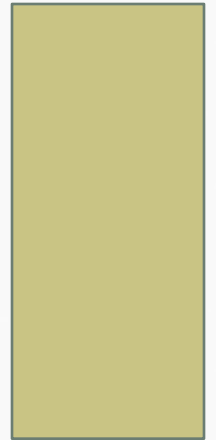


ENGLISH ONLY: CONSULTING L2 STUDENTS

HOW TO FEEL MORE CONFIDENT WHEN WORKING
WITH NON-NATIVE ENGLISH WRITERS



TERMS

- ESL : English as a Second Language
 - May be misleading but it is a common term
- ELL : English as a Learned Language
 - Becoming popular but may still be offensive
- NNES : Non-Native English Speaker
 - Safest term in literature...*
- L1: Language 1 / Native Speaker
- L2 : Language 2 / Language Learner **
- TL : Target Language

CONSULTING MYTHS

L2 Writers...

- Have a weak command of standard written English
- Think differently from native English speakers
- Come to the Writing Center to get their grammar checked
- Just need more of the basics before they can move on to more substantial writing tasks

CONSULTING MYTHS

- I need to...
 - Clean up the grammar in L2 writers' papers before we can get to higher-order concerns
 - Be well versed in the terminology of English grammar and usage if I'm to tutor L2 writers
 - Be much more directive when tutoring L2 writers

GENERAL REMINDERS

- Higher-order concerns still come first
- Error analysis is essential – be patient
 - There is a difference between an error and a mistake...
- Ask the writer about the logic behind an error in order to understand why it happened
- Most L2 writers can figure out their own verb tenses and agreement, especially if you point to the specific problem

GENERAL REMINDERS

- If L2 writers need direct or indirect articles or American idioms, you can give those
- Remember to point out those occasions when they get their grammar usage right
- If they use good sentence structure or are effective with such things, tell them

GENERAL REMINDERS

- You might not finish in the allotted time, so urge the L2 writer to make multiple appointments
 - It is important to take the time at the beginning of the consultation to establish a schedule of goals so they know what has not been worked on/what has been worked on
- Try to get the writer to keep working with the same tutor
- Urge L2 writers to do as much reading as they can

GAINING PERSPECTIVE

- What are the differences/similarities between working with L2 writers and English L1 writers?
- What is the difference between an error and a mistake?
- What is code-switching? Does this only apply to L2 writers?
- What is the difference between translation and interpretation?

GAINING PERSPECTIVE

- Differences...
 - You may be viewed as an authority figure
 - You are an expert in...English, College, and American culture
- Errors and Mistakes:
 - Errors are systemic and will occur repeatedly and will not be recognized (right away) as an error to the L2 writer
 - Mistakes are slips in language use and could occur in L2 writing as well as in English L1 writing
- Code switching:
 - Alternating between two language varieties (languages, dialects, and/or registers)
- Translations and Interpretations:
 - Translations do not insinuate understanding

SESSION TIPS

- Chat with the student first
- Explain what we do
- Make a plan
- YOU read the draft out loud
- Read the whole text!
- Ask questions and offer choices
- Consider the kind of writing
- Listen to vocal cues
- Don't be afraid to be more directive/hands-on
- L2 students look for the same qualities as other students

SO WHAT?

- How do we help?
 - Know how to talk about language (most L2 writers have studied English formally)
 - Know what errors are natural in language acquisition and know how to address them sensitively
 - Know that everyone makes mistakes (not just L2 writers)
 - Being indirect when you can and directive when you have to be

CONSULTING STRATEGIES

- Charting errors
- Use cognates if you know them
- Use pictures (ESL Dictionaries)
- Use the Internet
- Try to work with the same student again
- Come up with your own way that's comfortable for you!

- What helpful strategies have you used?

HELPFUL RESOURCES

- WRT 306 Textbook
- The BIG ESL book (black binder on the bottom shelf of the resource wall)
- FMCWMA website
- Other consultants!

