

Clatsop Community College Volunteer Literacy Tutor News

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Winter Term Begins January 7,
2013 and Ends March 21, 2013

- Have you turned in student **sign-in sheets** from Fall Term? Do you need **fresh ones**?
- Has your student acquired **40+ hours** of tutoring and homework? If this is the case, it's time for a **post-test**. Some students may be transitioning from strictly a listening/speaking focus to one of reading and writing. A reading assessment is helpful in determining what materials can help.
- Is your student on track to meet the 40-hour mark by the end of May? Can **homework** supplement this total? Need help strategizing on how to help us get to these hours? Call 503-338-2557.
- Some students are enrolled in more than one program (tutoring and ESL, tutoring and GED) and are well on the way or above the 40-hour total.
- Percy will register all students who participated in the program during the fall. No paper **registration** is required for these students. New students are required to fill out a paper registration.

14%
read at or
below a fifth
grade level

29%
only read at the eighth grade level.

Among those
with the lowest
literacy rates,
43%
live in poverty.

Add it up- An estimated 43% of American adults read at or below an 8th grade level.

TUTOR APPRECIATION LUNCH

12/07/12: Update

The food was great (furnished by a CCC student's Seaside restaurant- Taqueria Bravo), the company better and the stories our students and colleagues told the best part of the event. Thanks to all who could attend and we hope to have another lunch for you all during Spring Term. Your hardwork and commitment to our students is much appreciated.

New Worksheets/Materials Available For ESL and other Students:

- **How to Compose Paragraphs** packet: for higher-level students with good reading scores.
- **Grassroots: The Writer's Workbook**: for higher-level students with good reading scores and knowledge of paragraph construction.
- **English Vocabulary for Beginning ESL Learners**: Although the title says "beginners," this workbook is geared towards students with an intermediate command of English (beyond mere survival English) and who need to improve vocabulary for reading and writing.
- **Get Ready To Write**: a good basic text that integrates reading, speaking and listening skills to help students begin to write. Good for high beginners and intermediates and up.
- **A website** for those of you working on math with students. Lots of free printable worksheets with answers to drill addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, fractions, decimals, and percentages, etc. <http://www.math-drills.com/>
- **Phonemic Awareness Infusion**: for high beginners and up, a packet that targets specific sounds in short reading passages. Good for reading out loud/drilling to practice pronunciation.



Notes on: Student Success

- A student who started in the Seaside ESL class recently earned her GED.
- The literacy program helped create another American citizen in December.
- A literacy student in Seaside recently purchased a home.



Notes on: Describing what literacy tutors do

- Compare tutoring to **scaffolding**: first shelter the student by providing “a hand and a leg up” that will gradually allow the student to produce new language. The scaffolding is “dismantled” as the student becomes more proficient/independent.
- Tutors often serve as “**cultural ambassadors**” from the larger society, particularly for immigrants who are new to the US, but also for others locked out of the culture because of poor literacy skills. People with low literacy often do not understand how the US system works or about provisions to help individuals achieve independence and economic security.
- Literacy tutors often must confront how their students feel before learning can occur. **Low self-confidence, fear and shame** have an impact on how people learn. Students come to us with negative past experiences with schooling. Students may not give a high priority to their personal goals because they are so concerned with pressing family and work matters.
- Despite our sympathy to personal feelings, providing access to the larger society and a supportive learning environment, our students must begin to put themselves in situations where they can practice and refine what they have learned. Recently, a tutor called and said that her student wants to improve her English, but will not put herself in situations that demand she use it. We are searching for opportunities to “push” her through this reluctance, but ultimately the burden remains on the student to make those first, often painful, steps.



Volunteering and Civic Engagement in Oregon

Trends and Highlights Overview

Overall, in Oregon in 2011:

- **35.8% of residents volunteer**, ranking them **8th among the 50 states** and Washington, DC.
- Oregonians rack up an average **44.5 annual volunteer hours** per resident.
- **There are 1.10 million** volunteers in Oregon.
- Volunteers give a total of **136.7 million hours** of annual service in Oregon.
- Monetary value of these hours is **\$2.6 billion**.
- **15.8%** of volunteers work in **educational programs**.

For in-depth information see:

<http://www.volunteeringinamerica.gov/>

Additional data is available here on social connectedness, group participation, political involvement, and more.



Notes on: Using Bilingual Children’s Books with Adult Learners

At least one of our volunteers is actively using the CCC collection funded by the **Autzen Foundation**. The tutor uses the books to develop the mother’s English vocabulary and the mother reads the Spanish text to her kids. The student is concerned about her girls keeping their home language alive and that they learn to read and write in Spanish.

The vocabulary in children’s books is surprisingly sophisticated. If you think this is something that will work with you and your student, check out the collection.

HEADS UP: about the **new GED test series** scheduled for **2014**. These tests are going to be a lot more difficult to pass and appear to require that the student have content knowledge and not just the ability to read and pull from a multiple choice menu. The math looks especially more advanced. If you have questions, call. More info to come.

