

Helping English Language Learners (ELLs) overcome language barriers in the university classroom – OND Conference, 2013

By implementing the following strategies, educators can help reduce some of the cognitive load ELLs face:

1. Give each lecture a title and have students predict the content.
2. Preview key vocabulary prior to lectures, and reading and writing assignments. If possible, create and post sound files on D2L. Try Quizlet <http://quizlet.com>
3. Provide an outline at the start of each class. Post notes and PowerPoint presentations on D2L.
4. Use verbal and non-verbal cues to emphasize key concepts.
5. Recap main points/ key concepts at the end of lectures.
6. Preview content of upcoming classes.
7. Avoid culturally based and idiomatic references.
8. Give students time to formulate ideas.
9. Organize small group than whole class discussions.
10. Encourage students to make use of office hours.
11. Provide a vocabulary preview for each chapter, and each reading.
12. Provide targeted questions to guide reading.
13. Consider depth rather than breadth – less reading, more focused.
14. Assign formative, in-process writing assignments.
15. Provide student examples for assignments.
16. Provide targeted feedback.
17. Point out genre and discipline specific language features.
18. Reconsider the reasons for patchwriting.
19. Consider using *Turnitin* as a learning tool.
22. Realize it is everyone's responsibility to ensure our students succeed.

Resources for instructors available at UWaterloo

Using *Turnitin* for students to check their own work can be a valuable exercise to help them recognize where they are not paraphrasing enough:

<http://ist.uwaterloo.ca/cs/Turnitin/>

<https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/integrity-waterloo-faculty/turnitin-waterloo>

Contact Sean Warren for more information sean.warren@uwaterloo.ca

Centre for Teaching Excellence

Lecturing effectively in the university classroom (information for instructors)

<https://uwaterloo.ca/centre-for-teaching-excellence/teaching-resources/teaching-tips/lecturing-and-presenting/delivery/lecturing-effectively-university>

Renison University College - English language Institute

English Language Centre - offers pre-admission and conditional admissions programs

<https://uwaterloo.ca/renison/english-language-institute/english-language-programs>

English Language Studies - offers credit courses for undergraduate and graduate students

<https://uwaterloo.ca/renison/english-language-institute/english-language-studies>

If you are interested in providing more language support for the students in your faculty, contact Julia Williams

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Office for Academic Integrity

How to Help your Students (information for instructors)

<https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/integrity-waterloo-faculty/how-help-your-students>