

High Stakes Assignment #1 – Diagnosis and Remediation of an ELL

Due February 8 by 11am

Overview of the Task

By the end of this assignment you will have written a 3-5 page letter providing a diagnosis and plan of remediation for a LEP student in your imaginary 5th grade classroom.¹ Such plans are the basis for providing specialized instruction and remedial assistance to children with additional needs in school.

To begin this assignment, first **watch the following video** and then read the task scenario for the assignment below.

Task Scenario:

Ms. Peterson has taken a leave of absence and you have been assigned to substitute teach for her class. You realize Ms. Peterson's leave of absence occurs two weeks before a major state-wide assessment. After spending a week with your new class, you observe that one young student -- Moises -- is very limited in his English Language Proficiency.

Being the awesome teacher that you are, you write a letter of request to the school's Principal requesting that additional instructional support be provided to Moises. This extra support will be designed to prepare Moises for the upcoming State assessment by 1) emphasizing the 5th grade mathematics content he needs to know for the assessment, while 2) actively supporting the development of the English language skills he needs at the 5th grade level to engage with this content and the day to day interactions in the classroom.

In your letter requesting this extra support, you will provide a diagnosis and remediation of Moises' English language proficiency and his content (Math) knowledge. You will base this information on the facts and suggested information provided in the video.

Specifically, your letter you should address the following categories (paragraphs) of information:

1. **OVERVIEW OF THE CONTEXT:** In your own words, you will describe to the Principal "Mr. John Snow" the context for why you are writing this letter. Keep in mind, the context is the major academic event that will take place in the school in about two weeks' time. The problem is that you have a very low / limited English Proficiency

¹ I realize C&T 331 is a class designed to prepare you to work at the middle/secondary level, but many of the same theories and principles at work in the Elementary grades will be at work in middle/secondary grades as well.

student in your classroom. The solution you are seeking is a more time for Moises with the ESL teacher who could work to prepare him for the upcoming academic event.

2. **BACKGROUND ON MOISES:** What do we know about his L1 (Spanish) and L2 (English) skills, his homelife, his previous and past education. You should be able to glean much of this information from the video -- but "OJO" (that's a Spanish expression meaning, "careful"/"watch out") -- be careful not to assume more than is provided in the video.
3. **OBSERVATIONS ON HIS LANGUAGE USE:** How would you describe Moises' language skills according to the linguistic descriptions provided in Chapter 1 of the Diaz-Rico textbook. Does Moises display issues of phonology, morphology, syntax or are his problems much more broadly based in terms of limited vocabulary. Does Moises appear to be comfortable or motivated in using English?
4. **RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTION:** Based on what you know will appear on the test (mathematics words problems), suggest 2-3 areas of remediation that the ESL teacher "Mr. John Luther" should consider in his work with Moises. These suggestions should be based on the type of academic English Proficiency skills Moises will need as he prepares to take the assessment.

PS: In assessing this assignment, I will be looking to see "how well" you address the 4 points above and whether or not you support your statements with actual data from the video or theoretical ideas from the Diaz-Rico textbook.

PSS: Note: You will probably need to watch the video 2-3 more times as you work on the task below.

PSS: You can work as an individual, a pair, a group of no more than three individuals to complete HSA #1. However, each student must submit their own copy of this assignment to Blackboard. Be sure to include at the top of your paper the names of the individuals with whom you worked to complete this assignment.