

Winter 2-17-2017

## Supporting English Learners in Your Online Courses

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### Scholarly Commons Citation

Cottom, C. (2017). Supporting English Learners in Your Online Courses. , (). Retrieved from <https://commons.erau.edu/publication/398>

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# SUPPORTING ENGLISH LEARNERS IN YOUR ONLINE COURSE

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2017 PASSHE



# A little about ME!

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## POLL

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HOW COMFORTABLE ARE YOU SUPPORTING  
ENGLISH LEARNERS IN YOUR COURSES?

1- Not at all

2- Somewhat

3- Very

# Agenda

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- Background
- Cultural Influences
- Academic Language
- Teaching Strategies for Teaching English Learners in Online Courses

# Background

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- 1 million international students
- $\frac{1}{4}$  of post-secondary students are enrolled in online courses
- Entrance Exams



(Open Doors 2016 “Fast Facts” & Smith, 2016)

# Cultural Influences

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- Increased needs of English as a Second Language (ESL)/English Learners (EL)
- Culturally unique vocabulary
- Frame of reference
- Feelings of isolation



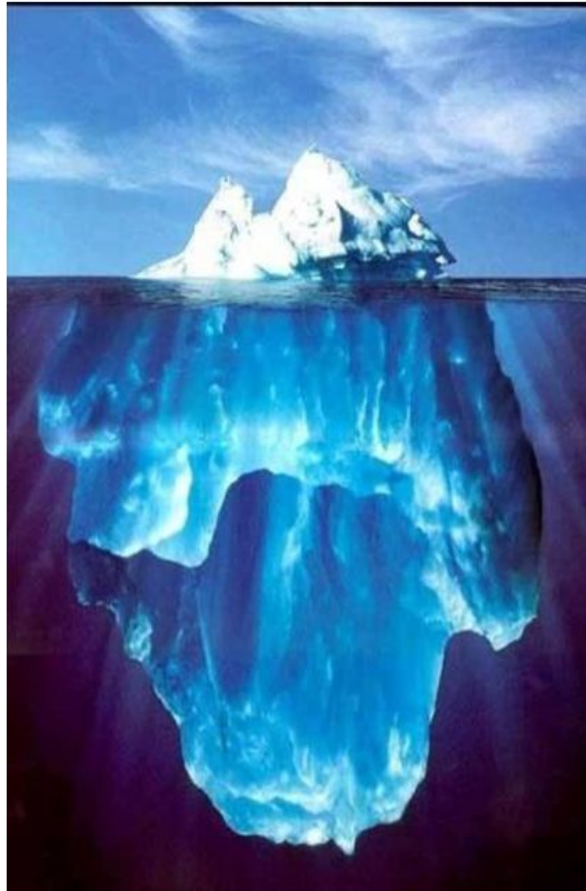
(de la Varre, Keane, & Irvin, 2011 & Kwon, 2009)

# Academic Language

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## ■ BICS & CALP

### Iceberg



#### **BICS (1-2 years)**

Basic Interpersonal Communication Skills

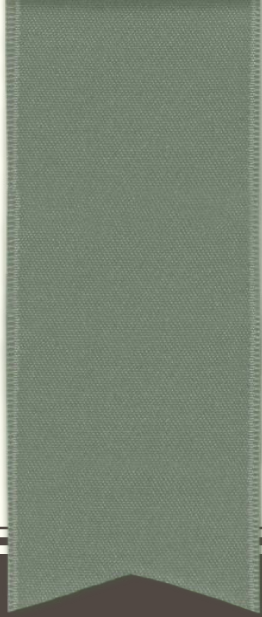
- Surface level – Here and Now
- Familiar Content
- Face to Face Conversation
- High Frequency Vocabulary – 2000 words
- Simple Sentence Structure
- Low Pressure

#### **CALP (5 or more years)**

Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency

- Experience and exposure to culture
- Lectures, formal, written text, specialized terminology, humour, culture, idioms, textbook language, social appropriateness, non-verbal communications
- Limited Interaction (textbook)
- More Abstract
- Less familiar content
- Decontextualized
- Low frequency Vocabulary
- High Stakes (lots of pressure)





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WHAT CAN YOU DO?

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# Personal Experiences/Atmosphere

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- Draw on personal experiences
- Reflect
- Technical problems
- Online community atmosphere

“the authenticity of human relationships is always in question in cyberspace, because of the masking and distancing of the medium, in a way that it is not in question in real life.”



Howard Rheingold

# Collaboration

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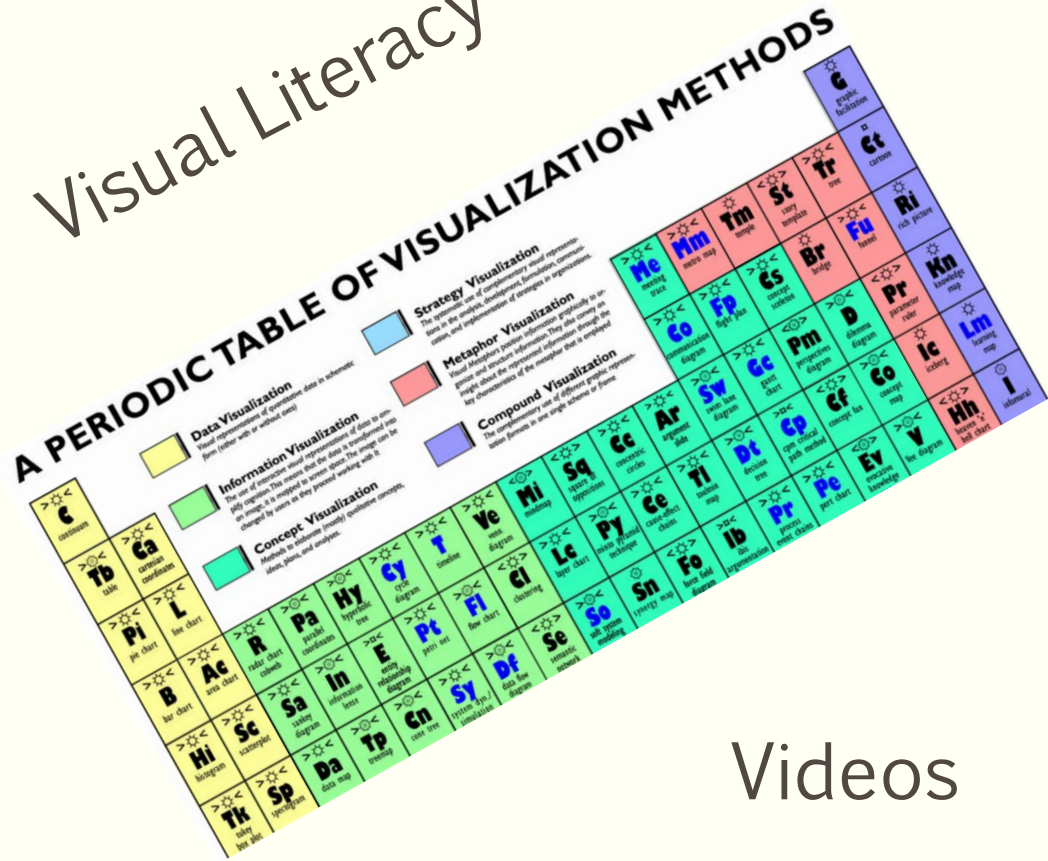
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- Social Interaction
  - Group Work
  - Discussions
- Collaborative Tools

- Challenges
  - Uncooperative groups



# Visual Literacy



PPT/Lecture Notes

Videos

# Infographics



Podcasts



Cartoons

What are some ways you create content that supports English Learners in your courses?

# Resources

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- Use LMS tools
  - Chat
  - Groups
  - Collaborate
  - Embedded External Tools
  - Adobe Connect
    - Break out groups
- Office Hours
- Writing Centers/Tutors



## Questions to Ask about Tech Integration

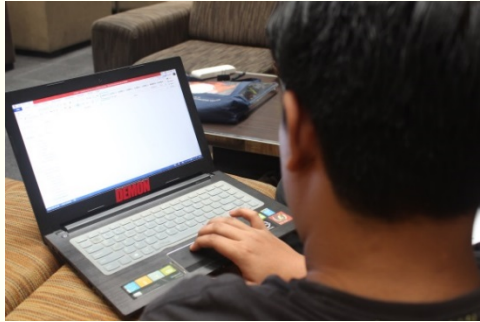
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- Will this help students think and learn more deeply?
- Will this lead to technology struggle and frustration?
- How can this empower students to control their own learning?
- Did I start with purpose and pedagogy?
- Is this relevant for today's world?
- What happens if the technology doesn't work?

How can you leverage your LMS tools to support ELs in your online courses?



# Wrap Up



? punctuation  
! adjective ;  
English  
noun verb





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