



Crossing Major Borders: Moving Students Along the Proficiency Spectrum

Workshop Description:

This one-day workshop provides an overview of the ACTFL Oral Proficiency Rating Scale and a description of the functions, contexts/content areas, discourse type and accuracy appropriate to each level. Participants discuss the curricular implications of the proficiency scale and explore strategies and activities that enable students to cross proficiency level borders (i.e., Intermediate to Advanced, Advanced to Superior).

Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of this workshop, participants will be able to:

- Articulate the Assessment Criteria related to each of the major levels (Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, Superior) according to the ACTFL proficiency scale: Functions, Contexts/Content areas, Accuracy/Comprehensibility, Discourse (Text) Type
- Identify the typical challenges students face at the major borders (Intermediate to Advanced, Advanced to Superior)
- Apply concrete strategies that assist learners to move up the scale, especially in order to cross a major border (Intermediate to Advanced, Advanced to Superior)
- Integrate Function, Text Type, Content and Accuracy into activities and course design
- Design proficiency-oriented activities and assessments that take into consideration stages of control (Conceptual, Partial, Full)



Workshop Agenda (7 hours):

Time	Content
Focus Our Learning 30 min.	Welcome and Introductions Basic Principles of Proficiency
Section One 60 min.	Analysis of OPI Excerpts
15 min.	BREAK
Section Two 45 min.	The Oral Proficiency Interview as model for classroom instruction
Section Three 60 min.	A plan to speed up proficiency development in the WL classroom
60 min.	LUNCH BREAK
Section Four 60 min.	Communicative Activities
15 min.	BREAK
Section Five 60 min.	Designing lesson plans that integrate function, content, accuracy and text type OR Assessment that reflects proficiency targets
Consolidate Our Learning 30 min.	Case Studies & Reflections