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The Center for Applied Linguistics




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## English Newsletter

AUGUST 2007

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## The NCLRC Language Resource



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 Visit our website at: <http://www.nclrc.org>

This month's theme is **Reaching Out to Struggling Students**. Our [feature story](#) this month shows how teachers can address the needs of struggling students by providing learning strategies instruction. See how we use animal mascots for learning strategies, like our friend to the right, *El Ratón que usa Referencias*. As we begin a new school year, we want to find out how you're feeling (Blue? Excited?) and what you need from your school. Check out the [Readers Corner](#) to answer our **POLL: How do you feel at the beginning of the school year?** and **QUESTION: What's the one thing you'd like your school to provide you to help you teach this year?** We'll report the results next month.

Our [Back to School Special Feature](#) gives advice from teacher educators on how to **start the school year right**, and links to many useful resources for your career development. [YANA](#) answers a question on finding **appropriate materials for high school students**, and [Dora](#) addresses the question of how to charge for **translations into Arabic**. [Tech for Teachers](#) shares our institute on **Metacognition and 21st Century Skills**, and [Language at Work](#) interviews a **Salsa Dance teacher**. Hope you enjoy reading through this newsletter before your classes begin!



### ★ Announcements:

- Our [Language Resource Podcast](#) has been updated with six video highlights from our Global Career Opportunities & Languages forum held at George Washington University, in collaboration with the National Museum of Language and ACTFL. Hear language experts from NSA, NVTC, Dept. of State, NSEP, and the Dept. of Commerce tell about language careers in their areas.
- The US Department of Education has announced new funding for development and promotion of educational opportunities between the US and Russia. Average 2-year grants of \$400,000 will be awarded. See our [Grants](#) page.
- NCLRC is looking for newsletter and website contributors for the coming year. See [below](#)

### Troubleshooting:

If your email client does not recognize the links in this webzine, or the links do not work, you can go straight to the NCLRC newsletter online page by clicking this link [www.nclrc.org/newsletter/english\\_newsletter.html](http://www.nclrc.org/newsletter/english_newsletter.html) or copying and pasting the link into your browser address bar.

### ★ Feature article

#### Helping Struggling Students Become Good Language Learners

by Jill Robbins & Anna Uhl Chamot

Ever wonder how to help the student who never brings a pencil? Who cannot seem to get organized or motivated? We present highlights from a 2006 NCLRC summer institute on how to help struggling language learners through learning strategies instruction. This article presents materials developed for that institute and elaborates on how language instruction can contribute to overall learning



### ★ Culture Club

Edited by Christine Meloni

[Visit the Culture Club!](#) Three rooms have been renovated for August. Check out the new materials in the Culture Club! [The Teacher's Lounge](#) has a new lesson plan. Marcel LaVergne has created 18 activities focusing on the Connections strand of the 5 Cs for *Le Petit Prince*. The current [Hangout](#) features an interview in French with an 11-year boy from Paris. Additional Spanish links have been added to the [Internet Media Room](#). A new Where in the World? Mystery Photo Contest has been launched in the [Photo Gallery](#). The winners of the [June Where in the World?](#) and [What in the World? Mystery Photo](#) contests are announced. And we finally have a winner for the April [Where in the World? Mystery Photo Contest](#).

**Attention Teachers of Italian!** We have had one winner but we are still accepting entries in the [Teaching Italian Culture](#)

success. See how we use animal strategy mascots, like *El Ratón que Usa Referencias!* [Read more...](#)

## ★ Back to School Special Feature

### Foreign Language Teachers' Guide to Free Resources: Back To School Edition

This is a good time to check over your professional schedule for the year, join professional organizations, and sign up for free resources for foreign language teachers in the U.S. To help you we have compiled:

- National, regional, and state foreign language teacher organizations
- Listservs and e-newsletters for foreign language teachers, also websites for materials and assessment.
- Resources from the Embassies

We've also asked two world language teaching experts, **Marty Abbott** of ACTFL and **Sheila Cockey** of AATSP-VA, to weigh in on the three most important things to do at the beginning of the school year. [Read more...](#)

## ★ Readers' Corner

Here's where you, our dear readers, can TALK BACK! This month we ask about the beginning of the school year.

**How do you feel at the beginning of the school year?** Hopeful; Resigned; Anxious; Worried; Energetic? Answer our [Poll](#) here.



Our open-ended monthly question is, **What's the one thing you'd like your school to provide you to help you teach this year?** Click here to answer the [Question](#)

Last month's question was "How do you help struggling learners?" and the poll asked, "What strategy do you teach your students most often?" Readers chose three as the most commonly taught strategies: Applying Background Knowledge, Finding/Applying Patterns, and Personalize. [See the results here...](#)

## ★ Tech for Teachers



### Metacognition and 21st Century Skills: Some highlights from our summer institute

by *Jamie Lepore Wright*

On June 22, 2007, the NCLRC held our first Metacognition summer institute, taught by Drs. Ana Uhl Chamot and Jill Robbins. We explored how teachers can develop the 21st century skills for learning

and thinking using technology. These skills include:

- \* Critical Thinking and Problem Solving Skills
- \* Communication Skills
- \* Creativity and Innovation Skills
- \* Collaboration Skills
- \* Information and Media Literacy Skills
- \* Contextual Learning Skills

Participants shared links and ideas for more fun in the fast-changing world of educational cyberspace, such as how they use the iPod mike pictured here. [Read more...](#)



### [through Photographs Contest.](#)

[Continue to visit the Library,](#) the [Screening Room,](#) the [Music Room,](#) the [Banquet Hall,](#) and [Speaker's Corner](#) and their [Collections.](#)

## ★ Language at Work

Give your students real-life examples of "what you can do with foreign language." This month we interview a salsa dance teacher, Amanda Gill, who uses Spanish while she teaches dance to English learners at Bell Multicultural High School in Washington, DC, and at other locations. [Read more...](#)



## ★ Dear YANA

Edited by Sheila Cockey. YANA stands for "You are Not Alone." Your questions on challenges in your classrooms are answered by an expert on languages and culture teaching. This month's question:

A colleague and I were discussing the lack of appropriate high school materials available for our students. The college material is way too difficult and the elementary too babyish. Does your organization address these concerns?

[Read YANA's answers...](#)

## ★ Ask Dora

Dora Johnson is a Program Associate at Center for Applied Linguistics, and answers reader's questions related to languages. This month's question arises from an exchange between three Arabic scholars in response to this question:

I was asked by my school district to give an estimate on translating a few letters and a home language survey from English into Arabic. They want to know how long it takes to translate one page (I know that it depends mainly on the content and the length of the page--- but just on average.). I am also wondering, What is the rate per hour?

[Read the discussion on professional translation practices, including Dora's answer...](#)

## ★ Teacher's Diary

As we begin the new school year, the staff of NCLRC is searching for a new Teacher Diarist. The Teacher Diary is a monthly feature in which a teacher reflects on an event of the previous month, such as a classroom incident, an innovation in teaching that you have tried, or a challenge with students or school administrators. The identity of the Teacher Diarist is kept anonymous. If you are interested in writing this year's diary, please take a look at the past teacher diary entries [here](#). Follow instructions at the top of the page to apply.

## ★NCLRC Staff

Back to school time is also the beginning of our new grant year and the time we plan for our presentations and institutes. We're especially open at this time to your suggestions and input on this newsletter and website. We need a new [Teacher Diarist](#), as mentioned above, and contributions of lesson plans and teaching tips. Email me (use a [web form](#) or [your own email client](#)) with your ideas or suggestions. - Jill Robbins, editor

The Language Resource is a monthly publication of the National Capital Language Resource Center <http://www.nclrc.org> to provide practical teaching strategies, share insights from research, and announce professional development opportunities for all foreign language educators.

Funded by the US Department of Education through Title VI, we are a consortium of Georgetown University, The George Washington University, and the Center for Applied Linguistics.

Also available on our website

[Culture Club](#)

[Arabic K-12 Teachers' newsletter](#)

[Sailing the 5 Cs with Learning Strategies:](#)  
A Resource Guide for Secondary Foreign Language Educators

[Portfolio Assessment in the Foreign Language Classroom](#)

[Elementary Immersion Learning Strategies Resource Guide](#)

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[Developing Autonomy in Language Learners:](#) Learning  
Strategies Instruction in Higher Education

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