



### Summary/Commentary

Katie McClintic

#### **Session Title: Next Generation Writing: Creating and Assessing Effective Online Discussion Forums**

Presenter: Sigrun Biesenbach-Lucas and Donette Brantner-Artenie, Georgetown University

Content Area: Second Language Writing/Composition

Session Type: Practice-Oriented

#### **Summary**

This session focused on how to teach strategies for writing academic discussion board posts. The presenters discussed their rationale for including this type of specific writing for students in an academic setting. They also shared ideas about what writing/critical thinking skills students need in order to successfully write for this particular purpose. Finally, the presenters shared material that they had developed through the teaching of this course, along with samples of student writing.

#### *Sample Materials*

<http://goo.gl/NrFrfq>

<http://goo.gl/BswUOE>

#### **Commentary**

As part of the AEC mission statement, one of our goals is to prepare our students academically in order to compete in their KU courses. The use of discussion boards has increasingly become a staple in university classes, and will be more so in the future as universities look to incorporate online/blended class formats into the curriculum. However there is little writing support available to help students be successful in this new writing format. I think the content of this presentation was relevant for not only the upper level writing courses at the AEC, but should also be introduced with modifications in the lower levels as well. In addition, I think it is of particular relevance to some of the short-term programs.

#### **Session Title: Orientation and Strategies Instruction for the Next Generation IEP Student**

Presenter: Linda Carlson, Ami Christensen, and Tom Carlson, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

Content Area: Intensive English Programs

Session Type: Practice-Oriented

#### **Summary**

This presentation focused on ways to help IEP students understand what is expected of them in the US university system as well as how to become more integrated into the larger community. The presenters shared information about specific courses they have developed in their IEP in order to accomplish this. The courses focused on using student mentors and grouping students in cohorts to provide a support system for international students.

#### *Sample Materials*

<http://goo.gl/RX1Qmv>

<http://goo.gl/Qigkrn>

## Commentary

As the number of international students on US university campuses continues to grow, it is becoming more challenging for counseling programs such as ours at the AEC to help students integrate into American society. This is due in part to the large numbers represented from particular countries, especially China and Saudi Arabia. What I found the most interesting in this presentation was the idea of using former language center students and/or international students as mentors to new cohorts of arriving students. This could be one way for the AEC counselors to increase the number of ways we provide support to our students in addition to the services we already provide.

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