DISTANCE LEARNING

With Basic Lit and ESOL Students

Eleanor Stafford

AGENDA

Group Share

Low-Tech Options

Tutor Experience with a High-Tech Option

Other High(er) Tech Options

Next Steps and Questions

LOW-TECH: PHONE CONVERSATIONS

Conversation practice

World knowledge building re: coronavirus or less depressing topics

Dictations

Shared texts:

    Decoding/sight words

    Fluency: choral reading, shadow reading, modeled reading

    Vocabulary Knowledge

    Comprehension

LOW-TECH: SNAIL MAIL

Dialogue "Journaling"—letters back and forth

From tutor to student: copied pages from articles, simple books, etc., to be read on phone; exercises and activities; corrected homework and dictations; picture stories for students to narrate on phone or write text for and send

https://www.readworks.org/

From student to tutor: completed dictations, completed exercise pages, student writing

LOW-TECH: TEXTING AND EMAILING

Read and respond; dialogue "journaling"

Word family activities, e.g., red, bed—student responds with more words in a list

Links to videos, e.g., News for You and YouTube videos re: skill development or topics for conversation

Pics of dictation texts (both ways); student writing, spelling, and other work

Scans of passages to be read together (or passages pasted directly in email)

VIDEO CLASSES AND SCREEN SHARING

Pros:

You can do synchronous lessons with video

You can create worksheets and slide presentations that you share with students

You can demonstrate how students can use different learning tools such as Quizlet and USA Learns, including guiding them through the registration process

Cons:

Students must have a smartphone, tablet, or laptop

With Zoom, they must be able to download the app on a phone or sign-up on a laptop

They must have an email address to use Google Hangouts

GOOGLE ACCOUNT

Gmail

Google Hangouts

You Tube Channel

Google Voice

Google Docs

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1/#inbox

YOU TUBE CHANNEL

Pros:

If you have a Google account, you already have a YouTube Channel

You may make videos on your phone, iPad or laptop and easily upload them to your YouTube channel

You may text links of videos to students; they don't have to have the YouTube app to view them

You may make your videos private

Cons:

People don't like to see themselves on video

It can feel intimidating to get started

It's tricky to learn how to position the camera

EXAMPLES OF YOUTUBE VIDEOS

Bob is sick: https://youtu.be/8L_0cGcbuio

Letters and Sounds 1: https://youtu.be/HCt0EnBWnuQ

Sand Monster: https://youtu.be/ln-JHJ_fqfM

ALL THINGS TOPICS

Pros:

Students don't need to register

There is a wealth of activities, from reading activities to dialogs, and free printable worksheets that you can send to students, email as attachments, or text as pictures

You may choose topics that relate to students' interests

You may text links to basic English dialog videos; these can be used for ESOL or basic literacy students

Cons:

I'm not finding many

ALL THINGS TOPICS

https://www.allthingstopics.com/

QUIZLET: QUIZLET.COM

Pros:

Can be used for basic decoding practice, sight word practice, and vocabulary development

It's free and extremely easy to use

Works well on laptop or phone

You can create a class and invite students to your class via a link

Cons:

App needs to be installed on phone for Quizlet to function properly

Students must sign up to join your class once you send them the link

NEWS FOR YOU ONLINE

https://www.newreaderspress.com/news-for-you-online

NEW READERS PRESS: NEWS FOR YOU ONLINE

Pros:

Online learning is free through June 30th

Tutor may text links to specific texts/videos for students to work with

Students may sign up themselves by inputting the free code: **22667F** (this allows access on laptop)

Students can choose to have a sentence at a time read from a passage

News is relevant to today

Can easily increase font size on laptop or phone

Cons:

Students need to sign up by inputting the free code to access it on their computer

Texts work better with higher level students

Voice is robotic

NEWS IN LEVELS

https://www.newsinlevels.com/

NEW IN LEVELS

Pros:

Students don't need to sign up for an account to access on phone or laptop

Tutors can text links of articles and books to student; student does not need to have downloaded the app to access the link

There are three levels of text for every article and book

There are a lot of articles to choose from; many are relevant to students' lives

Cons:

Robotic reading voice

Videos are static

It is not possible to play the video and see the passage at the same time on a phone

There are just two books; one is for children

USA LEARNS

https://www.usalearns.org/

USA LEARNS

Pros:

Real-life classroom simulations

Speaking, listening, reading, and spelling practice

Though designed for English language learners, it may be modified for use with basic literacy students

Cons:

Students must register to access on laptop or phone (installing the app works too)

Students must download app to use on phone

Even if tutor sends a link to a student, the student will have to register or install the app

There is so much going on that it may be difficult for students to navigate without a lot of tutor support

FREERICE

https://freerice.com/categories/english-vocabulary

FREERICE

Pros:

Students may use it on a laptop or tablet without registering (though progress will not be tracked)

Activities are far-ranging, from practicing English grammar and learning new vocabulary to learning about Coronavirus and identifying countries on a map

For each answer a student gets right, sponsors send the cash equivalent of 10 grains of rice to the World Food Programme

Cons:

The site works on a smartphone, but I found some of the activities to be glitchy without the app

You still have to register if you download the app