

“Newsy” the ESOL Tutor Newsletter

September 28, 2020



Welcome to “**NEWSY**” the Literacy Unlimited Tutor Bi-Weekly Bulletin!

Hi everyone,

Please read the newsletter to the end – there is important information throughout. 😊

Anne is Retiring!



Well the big news is that after eight years of incredible leadership, Anne is retiring from Literacy Unlimited at the end of October. She is not completely leaving the program and will continue to participate in Literacy activities like our Beginner Conversation Class. She has incredibly big shoes to fill but has agreed to stay on till a new replacement is found and has a chance to work with Anne on the transition. In the meantime, Liehua, Marjie and I will work to keep the Program running as smoothly as possible.

Upcoming Tutor Meetings

We continue to meet on every other Tuesday afternoon for tutor technology. And on alternating weeks we meet on Thursday nights for Tutor office hours. See below for ZOOM meeting information.

Week of:	Tuesday	Thursday
September 28	9/29 – Tutor Technology	
October 5		10/8 – Tutor Office Hours
October 12	10/13 – Tutor Technology	
October 19		10/22 – Tutor Office Hours

Changes in Tutor Hour Reporting

In response to the different ways we are tutoring under Covid-19 restrictions, there are changes in what is considered reportable tutor hours and in how hours are reported to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). We are happy that we are now able to record hours related to a student's learning that were not collected previously and we think that the new approach better reflects student and tutor effort.

In a nutshell there are now two categories for reporting tutor hours: Virtual hours and Proxy hours. Here are the instructions that explain the two categories. They will be on the email form that Lihua will send out on Wednesday, September 30th.

Virtual Hours means student and tutor are present at the same time but are not present at the same location. Hours can include but are not limited to:

1. Instruction provided by phone or text, with or without video;
2. Instruction provided by teleconferencing platform (e.g., ZOOM, SKYPE, cellphone or any other platform which includes video for the tutor and student);
3. Instruction provided by mail or email;
4. Student time spent on assignments sent to them by the tutor by mail or email (please estimate the time that your student spent on the work and add it to your virtual hours.)
5. Follow-up between tutor and student by phone, email or text.

Proxy Hours (Optional to collect these additional hours.)

This is the time that a student spends working independent of direct instruction, using an online product (e.g., AZTEC, VOXY, KET, USA Learns, Cell-Ed, DuoLingo, Mango Languages, etc). Please estimate the time spent on task.

There will probably be some questions about how to report hours starting for September. If you have questions about hours feel free to email us at fplmail4@minlib.net

Weekly Conversation Classes

Several of our special conversation classes will be ending in October. We are always interested in new ideas for conversation classes. If you are interested in leading a new conversation class or have an idea for a special conversation class, contact us. Fplmail4@minlib.net

We have closed online student registration for conversation classes again. The good news is that there is a lot of interest in attending these classes. The bad news is that we were getting students from all over the country, and in some cases from around the world, which was very difficult to manage. There is limited space in some classes. So if you have a student who could benefit from attending a class let us know fplmail4@minlib.net and we will try to find a space for them.

Tutor Meetings

Tutor Technology Meeting – Tuesday, September 29th at 2:00 PM

Laurie will introduce us to **Brittanica.com**

Karen will show some of the new functionality that was recently added to the **ESL Library**.

Tutor Technology Meeting – Tuesday, October 13th at 2:00 PM

We will discuss The Synchronous Online Flipped Learning Approach (**SOFLA**) that was recently presented in a webinar by ProLiteracy (the “News for You” publisher). I attended the webinar and thought there were some great ideas for both classroom and one-to-one tutors.

We would like the future topics for these meetings to be determined by our tutors. If you are interested in learning more about a specific technology or digital resource, or if you would be willing to share your experience using a digital resource, let us know. <https://framinghamlibrary.org/literacy/our-program/>

Virtual Office Hours for Tutors – Thursday, October 8th at 7:00 PM *(Next meeting will be on Thursday, October 22nd)*

The Agenda is open - all topics are welcome – it is always an interesting discussion. We usually discuss recent happenings at Literacy Unlimited and at the libraries as well as specific tutor challenges and successes. We will also be reviewing the topic from the previous Tutor Technology meeting for those who couldn't attend the Tuesday afternoon meeting.

Blended Tutoring, Distance Tutoring or Remote Tutoring

Six Word Stories

Here is a challenging and fun activity for Intermediate to advanced students that two of our conversation class leaders used in class last week. It might spark some ideas for you to use in your tutoring. <https://hanatichaeltblog.wordpress.com/2016/03/23/six-word-stories/>

And here is a fun take on Six Word Memoirs:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/11/opinion/coronavirus-pandemic-poetry-memoirs.html>

Good to Know

Newsy Mailing List and Tutor Status

We know that many of you are no longer meeting with your students. The reasons are mostly related to the restrictions imposed by Covid-19 and its impact on students and tutors. If you have stopped tutoring, we fervently hope that in the future, when Covid-19 has been better resolved, you will rejoin us. To stay in touch we are leaving you on our tutor mailing list. Unfortunately, this is the same mailing list that we use to request tutor hours. So if you are no longer tutoring, you can ignore Liehua's monthly request for hours and we will not call you.

New Tutor Training

Our tutor trainers have started working on producing a virtual version of the New Tutor Training. A training for a small group of new tutors is planned for October. If you know of someone who is interested in becoming an ESOL tutor, please let them know they can register for training on our website here <https://framinghamlibrary.org/literacy/our-program/become-a-tutor/> We plan to have another tutor training session shortly after the first session.

Student Assessments

Liehua and Marjie continue to contact students, scheduling test times and administering the tests remotely. Thank-you for your help making this process go as smoothly as possible for our students.

Please assure students that their test results will have no impact on their participation in the program. Testing remotely presents challenges but students should be assured they should just try to do their best.

Final Thoughts

Fall is here even though the weather doesn't seem to consistently reflect it yet. The magnificent colors of some of the trees around town are certainly reflective of the season. Fall means change and there certainly are a lot of changes in the air. For some of us, change is challenging and lots of change is overwhelming especially for those like me who think they have it all figured out. I have seen the following quote recently on social media:

It is not the strongest of the species that survive,
nor the most intelligent,
but the one most responsive to change,

-Charles Darwin

Although I am not worried about surviving, I would like to thrive amid all the change. I guess that means I might not be able to follow that same old paths that feel so comfortable to me.

Hope you have a great week and stay healthy and safe,

Karen