



CASLT PODCAST SERIES

Effective Practices for Improving French as a Second Language Education

Literacy in FSL Miles Turnbull

About the Author

Miles Turnbull is an associate professor in the Faculty of Education at the University of Prince Edward Island and the current President of the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers. His research has focussed primarily on French as a Second Language, teacher development, teacher belief systems, project-based and experiential learning and educational technology.

Content of this Podcast

Miles explores literacy strategies to integrate into French as a Second Language programs.

Facts

- ✓ Research shows that integrating literacy practices in second language teaching and learning is an effective way to motivate and engage students. It also helps them achieve success in their second language.

How to further integrate literacy into FSL? A few tips:

- Use texts of all kinds in class:
 - a. **aural** texts such as students' oral presentations, short radio clips, popular songs;
 - b. **audio-visual** texts such as video games, simple film trailers, television advertisements;
 - c. **print** texts such as lyrics of popular songs, cool poems, graphic novels, magazines, newspapers, print advertisements;

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- d. **electronic** texts such as electronic text messages and Web sites, Web blogs, email, multimedia presentations;
 - e. **artistic and graphic** texts, especially picture books, visual art that incorporates words and images, signs, packaging, charts and graphs, maps and diagrams.
- Choose texts and themes that matter to students, not teachers.
 - Connect your students' lives to the texts they use.
 - Serve as a role model for your students by talking about your own experiences related to the topic of the text.
 - When using text, the goal in general is to aim for overall comprehension, not for word by word understanding.
 - Use oral language all the time: before, during and after using texts of all kinds.
 - Begin with a simple approach by reading a short text aloud, engaging students with the cover of a book, asking questions as you go along, identifying language patterns and writing new words on a word wall.

Further Reading

Anderson, B., Carr, W., Lewis, C., Salvatori, M., & Turnbull, M. (2007). *Advancing Literacy Learning Strategies for Success in French as a Second Language*. Toronto: Pearson Education.

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Tompkins, G. (2006). *50 stratégies en littératie : étape par étape*. Montréal : Chenelière Éducation.