

English Learning Lab Online (ELLOnline)

The Problem

Current research from the National Center for Education Statistics finds 43% of the native speaking population and 76% of the non-native speaking population are at or below the basic literacy level (eighth grade reading level). Over 50% of the same population has zero computer literacy skills. The high degree of low literacy leads to an enormous toll on the US economy through lost productivity, health care and social services. I am currently working on a project to create a free learning website composed of instructional videos and activities aimed towards basic to below-basic literate populations.

Online Learning – English Language Learners

While there is a plethora of websites and resources available online for language learners, very few are appropriate for students that are considered at or below the basic literacy level. In checking the grade level of several of the “beginning level” resources, I found that the introductory pages had the average of a 9th grade reading level. Even if the resources are available, they are not easily accessible for this population.

ELLOnline – Goals

The goal of ELLOnline is to create a large database of resources that are accessible for people at basic or below literacy levels. The site will be designed to be very intuitive using color and graphics to assist students in navigation. Each color coded topic would be leveled from 1 to 10, with one being easiest.

Capstone Final Project

The Capstone Final Project for Tutoring Adult ESL learners has two options:

Option A – Create a script and storyboard for ELLOnline. Students will plan a mini-lesson aimed at below basic (approximately 5th grade) or basic literacy levels (approximately 8th grade). Students will use an application such as PowerPoint or Google slides for to create the storyboard. The project will be converted to a 3-5 minute video. The primary goal of the students is to develop a script and use images as places holders and design ideas for video conversion.

Option B – Convert a completed storyboard and script into a final video. Students will convert a storyboard into a video mini lesson. Students will use approved animation software ‘Powtoon’ to create video from storyboards. Students will find approved images, follow design protocol, and add voice over script to create 3-5 minute mini-lesson aimed for below-basic to basic literacy levels.

Grading

Project is worth 100 points.

Project Deadlines – 45

- Week 3 – Present idea (5)
- Week 5 – Present outline of project (5)
- Week 7 – Present Final draft (5)
- Week 8 &9 – Present to Class for Critiquing (25)
- Finals – Final Version with edits from class input (5)

Content & Quality - 55

Grading Rubric

90-100% – Task addressed effectively. Presentation is at appropriate level and clearly stated. Little or no editing required to go to video production.

80-89% – Addressed task effectively but ideas may not be level appropriate or clearly stated. Some editing required to go to video projection.

70 – 79% - Adequate attempt but needs considerable edits to be level appropriate or clearly stated.

60 – 69% – Basic structure evident, but will need major edits to be used for video project.

0 – 59% – Not completed. Objectives minimally addressed. Not useable for video project.