

2014 FAAPI Conference: 'EFL Teaching & Learning in the Post Methods Era".
A.P.I.S.E, Santiago del Estero, 2014.

Conference Report: 'EFL Teaching & Learning in the Post Methods Era".

Analía Giuliatti.

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Conference Report

2014 FAAPI Conference: 'EFL Teaching & Learning in the Post Methods Era'

Santiago del Estero, September 18th-20th

Organised by A.P.I.S.E.

Selected papers published at

<http://www.faapi.org.ar/congreso-faapi/publications/>

By Analía Giulietti ¹

This three-day FAAPI conference has definitely fuelled my mind with ideas, so much so that I have been at pains to prioritize in these few lines such a diverse gamut of topics. Some days have passed by and I have already put into practice some useful information and I will briefly point them out.

Lucrecia Prat Gay in her presentation, "From brain scan to lesson plan: looking into the biology of learning", stressed how educators can profit from the latest contributions of neuroscience. One of the pieces of advice she gave was to make a good use of the first and last minutes of a class since these are the periods that human brains will remember the most, beginnings and endings. She also stated the importance of bearing in mind the limited attention span of today teenagers - 2,5 minutes on average- when planning our lesson.

During one of Scrivener's workshop "The underknown secrets of classroom management", he outlined some techniques to alter the quality of teaching and learning processes. One of them is to learn, once and for all, to feel comfortable with silence when we wait for a student's contribution and not to be tempted to switch our attention to other students who are energetically waving their hands to give their answers. He also remarked that we should not establish eye contact with those students and instead, pretend that we are intentionally not hearing. It's a way of fostering shy students' participation in class.

Gustavo Gonzalez in his plenary, "Intrinsic motivation still rules learning in the post method era", showed us how to use the latest web tools that are appealing to students, one of these is a program to create a "faKebook" profile with learning purposes. My students have already created amazing fakebooks and they enjoyed the activity a lot.

As you can imagine, this has just been a brief review. I am omitting a lot of useful and innovative ideas, otherwise it would take me pages to write about the great

¹ Analía Giulietti was the winner of the draw for a Free Pass for this Conference.

contributions that each speaker has made. My aim was to share with you some tips which, at least in my lessons, are already paying off.

In my opinion, each FAAPI conference is unique, since the topics change from one year to another. We are living in a world changing at an astonishing speed that inevitably affects our classroom and this pushes teachers to be constantly revising our teaching performance. I believe FAAPI conferences are interesting and valuable annual meetings to get in touch with educators around the world who kindly share their investigations and classroom practices in a highly enriching way.

To conclude, I want to gratefully thank APriR, especially to the teachers María del Carmen Fernandez, Graciela Castelli and Mariel Amez.