

Report from ESL Faculty to ENGL faculty  
as a result of our FLEX day activity in October 2017

ESL department take-aways – what WE will change:

- We will try to prepare our students for the very real possibility of failing their first essay in ENGL 105 (with the possibility of revision) and for, in general, getting a lower grade in ENGL 100/105 than they did in 400.
- We are going to try to add a bit more reading to our some of our essays so that students get more practice with reading before going into 100/105

How we hope to help you/work with you to better serve our students:

- We would love to teach you about some “go-to” resources for ESL teachers: the ESL books written by Betty Azar (red, black, and blue grammar books) and *Writing Clearly*, all available in the Writing Center. Check these out if you have any down time in the Center.
- You are more than welcome to join us as (non-voting) members of our ESL 400 norming this semester (12/4 from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., probably in 15-155).
- We would be happy to offer you our 5-minute explanations of specific grammar issues (noun clauses? Articles? Gerunds and infinitives?). Or would you like to bring specific sentences that stumped you, and we could analyze them for you? Save us 10 minutes at your English meetings; we’d be happy to do our best to help you understand grammar from an ESL perspective.
- We would be interested in finding out from Robbie and Daniel (and others who do this) what kind of “rough draft” feedback they give their students.

How we hope you will address issues within your own department:

- You had such varied grading styles and criteria. We highly recommend that you norm more frequently. ☺ (Like we do! We do it \*every\* semester, at least twice.)
- We encourage more of you to do in-class writing. Honestly, it’s the only time we know for sure that we’re reading writing by our own students (as opposed to writing that they’ve gotten so much help on it hardly counts as theirs.)
- We encourage you to not be “repulsed” by formulaic/mechanical writing. ☺ A mechanically-organized paper may have just as much potential to be a strong, thoughtful paper as a paper that is more organically organized.