



Stony Brook University

FLA 340/506

**Curriculum Development
Dr. Sarah Jourdain**

FLTeach Assignment

Due Wed., March 6, 2013

Foreign language teachers have a wonderful resource that we can use to communicate with colleagues and find resources: The Foreign Language Teaching Forum (FLTeach). The **Foreign Language Teaching Forum** includes a web site, an email LISTSERV Discussion List, a searchable archive, and an FLNews server.

For this assignment, you will first visit the archives of the discussion forum to discover what topics are being discussed by the approximately 4,000 foreign language teachers who participate.

To visit the FLTEACH web site:

- Go to <http://web.cortland.edu/flteach/>
- Click on the tab at top labeled “Archives”
- Click on “Primary FLTEACH archive”
- Click on “February 2013”

You will get a VERY long alphabetical list of all the comments/questions/statements that were posted to the list for that month. (Note: The topic on “Flipped Classrooms” is very interesting—26 posts total, 21 at the beginning of the list, 5 more later, alphabetically under “F”)

Find 2 topics that interest you. Your topics must have at least 3 posted messages each. Read all of the messages about the topic. Write up an explanation of why each topic is of interest to you. Include:

- a. The title/topic you have chosen;
- b. Why the topic is of interest to you;
- c. What you have learned from reading about this topic on FLTeach?
- d. How you think you could get more information about this topic?

Now go back to the FLTeach homepage to find some additional information about another topic:

- Go back to <http://www.cortland.edu/flteach/>
- Click on the tab at top labeled “Ancillaries”
- Click on “FLTEACH FAQs” in the blue box on the left
- Click on Choose one of the topics that interests you

Write a brief summary (approx. 1 paragraph) explaining what you have learned about this topic from the website and whether or not you agree with the advice given. Explain why you agree or disagree.

While you are on the FLTeach site, go back to the home page (<http://web.cortland.edu/flteach/>):

- Click on the tab labeled “Links” to find many more interesting sites!

If you would like to join the FLTeach forum (membership is free):

- Send a message to: `LISTSERV@listserv.buffalo.edu`
- In the message put only the following:
SUBSCRIBE FLTEACH firstname lastname
Example: SUBSCRIBE FLTEACH Snow White (but use your real name!)
(To unsubscribe send: UNSUB FLTEACH)
- The message should be in plain text (avoid fancy formatting)

If you do join, I highly recommend that you immediately set your subscriber option to DIGEST or INDEX so that you only get one e-mail per day from FLTeach (and not 50-100). Instructions for setting your subscriber options are on the website (under “Options”) and will be e-mailed to you from FLTeach.

Finally, some words of wisdom, adapted from Bryan Drost, formerly of Hiram College:

On becoming a Member: After you consider the wealth of information that you see, consider becoming a member of the listserv. This list is an open, supportive forum that can be useful to you as you are working with students of any age. But please remember, the members of the list are hardworking professionals. Requests such as “I need a lesson by Monday” or “What’s a fun way to teach AR verbs” might not be welcomed or may not receive a response simply because these types of responses take valuable time and effort to compose. Additionally, if you are considering posting a question to the listserv as part of a class assignment, remember that these professionals, including myself, do not want to feel “duped” because you are really asking a question for a class, rather than for yourself. I would encourage you to monitor the list for a short time before you post your own message, simply to understand the culture of the listserv, much as you will observe your cooperating teacher’s classroom for a few weeks, before you take over and teach. Consider also participating as a responder. If you see a question to which you have an interesting response, participate! This is a forum for professionals, and you are in preparation to become one of these professionals. Begin participating as a (future) professional.

Finally remember that you are currently a representative of Stony Brook University. Consider what may happen on a listserv when you post a question that appears to be an exercise in procrastination or laziness compared with one that represents a thoughtful professional contribution. Which sort of post would you prefer that I, and others, see? With what sort of post would you want your name associated forever in the archives?

(Adaped from: <http://icc523.wikispaces.com/file/view/FLteach.pdf/60193844/FLteach.pdf>)