

Visit ESoL Main Street at <http://www.jmu.edu/esol>

Visit Main Street Virginia at <http://www.jmu.edu/mainstva>

Fall 2002

‘Main Street Flight School’ pilot test program takes off

Last summer ESoL Main Street and Main Street Virginia put out a call to ESL program directors and managers to participate in a pilot test project. After reviewing applications received from across the state — and one from Minnesota! — programs from Prince William County, Patrick County, and the city of Winchester were chosen. (The ESL program at Eastern Shore Community College had to drop out due to budget constraints and teacher re-assignments.)

Throughout the 12-week pilot test, teachers in the three programs will use the Main Street web sites with the students on a regular basis. In addition to completing weekly evaluation reports on how the lessons went, the teachers will also submit lesson plans using different segments of Main Street and stories written by their students for the two sites.

Web site writer and researcher Pamela Brown met with the participating teachers and Nancy Faux, ESoL Specialist at the Virginia Adult Learning Resource Center in September. The group reviewed the web sites, discussed student needs, curriculum, and goals as well as developing a lesson plan format. The project officially kicked off on September 23 and will run through December 20.

The purpose of the pilot test is to determine how well the Main Street web sites work in classroom practice, what succeeds, and what needs

to be re-vamped. Halfway through the pilot test, things are moving along. Students from

Patrick County capped off a lesson on smart shopping at the grocery store with a visit to a local supermarket. Look for a photo presentation of their trip on Main Street soon. Weekly evaluations are rolling in as well and so far the feedback is positive.

Look for lesson plans and Main Street stories from participating teachers and students to appear on the Main Street web sites in early 2003. ☺

Main Street has a new address

You may have noticed something different in the banner of this issue of *News on the Street* — new web addresses for both ESoL Main Street and Main Street Virginia.

In late October, we changed servers to make upgrades and additions to both web sites easier and more expedient. With ESoL Main Street and Main Street Virginia growing the way they are, this is an important step forward.

Be sure to change your bookmarks to the new addresses — <http://www.jmu.edu/esol> and <http://www.jmu.edu/mainstva> — and spread the word to anyone you know who uses either web site with their students. But don't worry — we've set it up so that anyone going to the old URL will automatically be directed to the new one for several months.

As with any change, glitches have occurred and we are working hard to correct them. If you find any links that don't work, pages that aren't there, or have any other problems, let us know by contacting Pamela Brown at brownpg@jmu.edu. ☺

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What's new on *Main Street*

Teachers, tutors, and students will find lots of new things on Main Street. Here's a glimpse at some of the newest stories on Main Street:

- Take a virtual tour of the White House and the US Capital at *Get to Know the US Government*. (Government Services)
- Learn tips on how to save money at the *Grocery Store* and join students from Patrick County on their field trip to a local supermarket. (Shopping Center)
- Find out how your favorite ethnic foods fit into good eating by reading *Eating Healthy/Staying Healthy*. (Health Care Services)
- Take a sample Virginia state driver's license test when you read *How to Get a Driver's License* (Government Services)
- And coming soon, the *Teacher's Room* will appear on each menu page. Here you will find lesson plans and activities for using Main Street in your classroom.

These are just few of the new Main Street stories that will soon be uploaded over the next few weeks. Have ideas of your own? See "Share Your Ideas" for information on submitting Main Street stories. ☒

Our favorite links

While surfing the information superhighway for resources to include on Main Street, we've come across many fun and educational sites. Here are three of our favorites:

- **My History is America's History** (<http://www.myhistory.org>) stresses the importance of preserving family stories and histories. The site has sample stories to read in class and a format guide for telling your own stories.
- **BeMedWise** (<http://www.bemedwise.com>) is sponsored by the National Council on Patient Information and Education. Here you'll find lots of information on drug safety as well as information on how to read drug labels.
- **Reader's Digest** (<http://rd.com/index.jhtml>) has long been a favorite magazine and its web site is just as much fun. The October issue lead off with Halloween safety tips, a how-to on planting spring bulbs, and an article on breast cancer. You could even go to Tool School to learn the difference between a pipe wrench and a tack hammer.

Do you have a favorite web site that you use with your students? Let us know so we can share your great ideas in future newsletters. Email your favorite links to brownpg@jmu.edu. ☒

ESoL *Main Street* *Main Street Virginia*

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Share your ideas

Have you used the newspaper in your classroom? Tell us about your experience.

Or, do you Main Street websites to work in your classroom? Maybe you have an idea for a new Main Street story, such as what to do when you have a consumer complaint or how to handle job-related conflicts. Or maybe your students have written one that you would like to share with us.

Would you like to participate in email feedback sessions to evaluate the site between two and four times a year?

Whatever the reason, we'd like to hear from you. E-mail your comments, ideas, or Main Street stories to brownpg@jmu.edu Or fax them to Main Street at 540-568-2933. ☒

Using ESoL Main Street and Main Street Virginia in the classroom

Tips and techniques for and by ESoL teachers

Finding information in your local newspaper

Can you use the newspaper to teach English speaking, reading, and writing skills? You certainly can — just follow this simple lesson plan developed by a group of workshop participants at SW VAILL and 'spruced up' by Susan Joyner, director of the Virginia Adult Education Resource Center.

Class level: Intermediate

Language Skill: reading; scanning for information

Life Skill: Finding specific information in a community newspaper

Warm Up:

- Bring copies of local newspapers to class
- Discuss with the class:
 - Do you read the paper here?
 - Did you read the paper in your country?
 - What do you like to read about?



Base the lesson on the class response to the last question. (This lesson is based on sports. Students might also want to read classified ads, an advice column, or the weather report.)

Presentation:

- Introduce the topic of sports. (A picture, piece of sports equipment, or a personal story)
- Ask about sports - in the students' countries? in the U.S.?
- Ask them if they are a sports player, a watcher, or a follower.
 - Most students will fall into one of these categories. If there are students who don't like sports, suggest that their children will play American sports, sports is a good topic of conversation with Americans, sports is the basis for many idioms.)
- Elicit basic vocabulary associated with most sports; e.g. team, goal, win/lose.
- Ask students for the names of American sports they know. Using the picture dictionary if necessary, list vocabulary for specific American sports; e.g. homerun, quarterback, basket. Write the vocabulary items (including slang/idiomatic expressions) on the chalkboard under each sport.

Practice:

- Ask them where they would find the sports page in the local newspaper. Show them how the index tells them the name of each section.
- Using presentation equipment, open MainStreet

Virginia and find the "Newsstand" at the "Shopping Center". Click to find a list of local newspapers: <http://web.jmu.edu/esol/newsstand.htm>. Open your local paper and show the class how the sidebar serves as an index. Ask them to find the sports section in the sidebar.

- Give each student a teacher-made worksheet with 4-5 questions that could be asked about most sports events, such as location, date and time, team names, and who won. These can be open-ended questions or fill-in-the-blanks depending on the level. Since the focus is on reading for information the students are not asked to write their own questions.
- Still using the presentation screen with the students, go to the sports section and open a story about a sports event. Help the students locate the information in the story. Write the questions and answers on an overhead transparency or on the chalkboard. The students practice asking and answering the questions in pairs.

Application:

- Have students form small groups at each computer. Assign each group the name of an American sport. Ask the groups to visit their online local newspaper to find a story about this sport. When they have read the story they fill in the same worksheet and add one interesting fact they have learned.

Example:

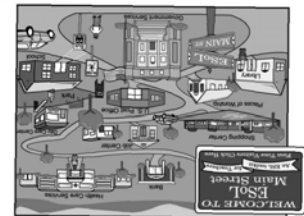
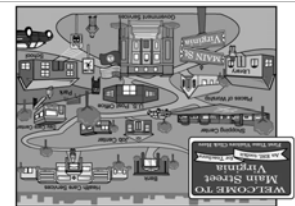
- The football game was played on Tuesday, October 1st.
- The game was at Madison High School.
- The teams were the Madison High School Tigers and the George Washington High School Comets.
- The score was 36-14.
- The Comets won the game. The away team won!



Possible Extension Activities:

- Create a class bulletin board newspaper to include sports stories and pictures.
- For school-based classes, attend an after-school game. Take photographs. Create a "virtual field-trip" web page of pictures and text. 🖨

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ESoL Main Street and Main Street Virginia are partners of

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And these community partners

- American Red Cross Harrisonburg Rockingham
- Blue Ridge AHEC
- Career Enhancement Program at JMU
- Dayton Learning Center
- Harrisonburg Public Schools
- Harrisonburg Rockingham Chamber of Commerce
- Harrisonburg Rockingham Office of Economic Development
- Massanutten Regional Library
- JMU Adult Education/Human Resource Development Program
- New Bridges Immigrant Resource Center
- Skyline Literacy Coalition
- Shenandoah Valley Migrant Education Program
- United Way of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County
- Virginian Council of Churches Refugee Resettlement Program