



In our faculty conversation, we will look at some key strategies for supporting all facets of learning support for our multilingual students. In addition to considering strategies for responding to student writing, we'll discuss options for supporting students as they improve their in-class speaking and listening skills as well as broader strategies to support cross-cultural learning.

Esther R. Namubiru, M.A., Term Faculty, INTO George Mason University, Office of the Provost

My Opening Idea or Definitions

Provide a 50-150 word opening statement with your understanding of the most interesting or important aspects of this topic (to you and your teaching).

Multilingual students are learning new information in a second or third language and, for some of them, in a new academic context. Although this presents communicative and academic challenges for them, their peers, and their faculty, it also means these students are bringing unique perspectives and ways of understanding and making meaning that can enrich their classes.

Since language and communication are multifaceted, *i.e.*, they include reading, listening, speaking, & writing, instructors who work with multilingual learners could tap into those different dimensions to facilitate students' learning and language development.

What Have I Tried?

Summarize 3-4 approaches, emphases, scenarios, or assignments, each briefly explained (50-100 words each) so that participants can envision your past and/or current teaching experiences, whether successful or still evolving.

- **Recording reflections:** I ask my students to record oral reflections (2-minute recordings) as a way for them to share their insights and questions before an upcoming discussion or to reflect on previous classes. In so doing, they also get an opportunity to practice their speaking. Students also listen to each other's reflections and come to class with some responses for their peers.

- **Asking students about their learning and communication preferences:** At different points in the term, I check in with students and ask them the activities/lessons/assignments they are finding (un)helpful and would prefer to continue using/adding to/removing from the class to help them enhance their understanding and engagement in the class.
- **Providing targeted manageable feedback:** Pointing out every single grammar issue can be cognitively overwhelming, so I first give feedback on ideas and then on grammar if it is impeding meaning. I also predetermine one or two language features that I expect all my students to apply correctly and I share those features with my students giving tips or complete lessons on how to produce them. Then, I focus on those in my students' work. Typically, students will start noticing and consciously producing those features with consistency. Overtime, they can improve in those areas.

What Am I Exploring? What Am I Interested In?

Provide a list of 3-4 questions, activities, or options that you have been considering as you continue to adapt your teaching approaches to support multilingual learners..

- **-Using questions to facilitate talking about discipline-specific content:** This semester I am experimenting asking students to jot down questions about the content as part of their notes during class. They are required to share the questions with peers and find answers together in class or right after. Online tools like Blackboard's 'Discussion Board' have been helpful in doing this.
- **-Providing multi-modal materials:** I am trying to incorporate more oral texts in my writing and research course by finding (or asking my students to find) talks, videos etc that are discussing the same content in the readings. More listening means students can practice hearing about their concepts from other perspectives while absorbing English from real-world contexts.
- **-Incorporating students' native languages at strategic points in the class:** I am considering how to strategically incorporate my students' native languages at specific points in the class so that they are able to express and leverage their multilingual/multicultural identities to enhance their learning.

What are some Best Practices, Tips, or Resources I'd Like to Share with Other Faculty?

If you could recommend a list of 3 core values, teaching tips, and/or resources (articles, books, and links) that faculty across disciplines could find helpful to support multilingual learners, what would your list include?

- Ask your students what materials/teaching methods they find helpful in your class.
- Be open to new ways communicating meaning.
- Provide different opportunities for students to participate inside and outside the class and demonstrate their understanding: Could students post or reflect on questions and content ahead of, or after class? Could they bring artifacts? Could they work in pairs or small groups to discuss content?



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