

# **Inspire & be inspired**

## **Report from the 26th Annual International HUPE Conference in Poreč Croatia**

The conference in Porec was my first as a representative of the Association of Teachers of English of the Czech Republic and my workshop there was a summation of my experience in teaching teenagers.

The conference was called Inspire & be inspired and as the name suggests you could get lots of inspiration there as well as inspiring the other participants.

I had a chance to take part in interesting workshops and talks - there were more than 60 focused on different topics in teaching English.

One really worth mentioning was a plenary talk delivered by Luciana C de Oliveira, Ph.D., Professor and Chair in the Department at the University of Miami, Florida.

Her plenary described a genre-based approach to writing instruction and provided specific strategies to incorporate writing in lessons.

Luciana described and modelled a teaching/learning cycle. The cycle basically consists of:

### **Text deconstruction**

- bring an example of the writing you want to assign to your students
- go through it with your students, read it, comment on it etc.
- Luciana brought an example of writing called 'My big book about Spain' which was a nice description of Spain written by a pupil from an elementary school

### **Joint Construction**

- at this stage we were given an assignment together, the topic was: 'My big book about Croatia'
- Luciana was eliciting word chunks and phrases from us about what we knew about Croatia and she wrote the ideas which were mentioned on the flipchart so everybody could see

## Collaborative construction

- having all the ideas written on the flipchart, we started to write the description of Croatia together, sentence by sentence, Luciana was still writing on the flipchat so everybody could see - 'My big book about Croatia', we created the text together

## Independent construction

- at this stage you would assign your students the writing which they would do on their own

Apart from anything else this should help the students to know what to write or what the writing should look like and save your time when correcting your students' assignments as the students will know how to write that particular genre.

As well as this one other workshops and talks were also inspiring not to mention the fantastic Penny Ur who with her workshop 'Getting them to talk in English' suggested guidelines for teaching speaking which both novice and experienced teachers would find inspirational, however it was also the social side of the conference and meeting new teachers which was enlightening.

All the organisers were very friendly and welcoming. The organisation, timing and the venue all contributed to an unforgettable experience which this conference definitely was.

A few photos from my workshop:



HUPE President Sanja Bozinovic on the left side and Luciana C de Oliveira, Ph.D on the right.



### **"English as a lingua franca" panel discussion**

From the left: Sanja Bozinovic (a moderator), Izabela Potnar Mijic, Jen MacArthur, Penny Ur, Ana Martinovic, Steve Lever and Aida Salamanca

