

Ensure Students Are Learning: Faculty Descriptions of Innovative Teaching Practices

Using Applied Learning in Translation and Interpretation Studies

Innovative Teaching Practice Description:

Students work in randomly assigned groups of three or four outside the classroom to translate a specific technical document. This allows students to see different perspectives and share ideas as they try to solve problems and render the translations.

Each team member assumes a role:

- Project manager: makes sure the project details are disseminated among the team members
- Translator: translates the document
- Editor: responsible for the edits during the development of the project and in the final draft of the translation
- Proofreader: responsible for ensuring the readability of the final product
- Terminology specialist: responsible for verifying the terms used in the final translation are correct (not always necessary)

The grading rubric includes the following:

- Grammar/syntax
- Orthography/punctuation
- Semantics/communicative accuracy
- Readability

Examples of technical documents include slogans, business letters, insurance contracts and policies, birth certificates, drug facts, academic transcripts, denial of services, hospital brochures, wills, clinical history, print ads, product information, shipping materials, and balance sheets.

Pre-Requisites for This Innovative Teaching Practice:

This is for advanced students who have had ample experience using the CAT (computerized assisted translation) tool prior to starting this activity.

Notes From the Instructor About This Innovative Teaching Practice:

“Translation and interpretation requires an extensive knowledge of converting one language to the next and keeping it accurate. The students learn to think critically and creatively, but they also understand that they are ultimately responsible for their translation decisions. This helps the students to thrive at a higher level when they get their first job because they have already learned how to problem-solve, make a decision, and defend their decision. When working on the translation teams, if a team member is not pulling his/her weight, upon awareness, the instructor encourages the team to approach the team member and then redirects by asking if they know their roles, so that the project can get back on track.”