



Curtin University

*8th International Conference on TESOL:
ELT IN THE 21ST CENTURY: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES*

Date: **Thursday, Aug 10, 2017**

Time: **11:00-12:05**

Presenter/s: **Mr. Thomas KERNER**

Bio:

Mr. Thomas KERNER (recently retired from Springfield, Massachusetts, Public Schools and Lutheran Social Services of New England, West Springfield, Massachusetts) has two graduate degrees in ESL instruction and over 25 years of experience teaching children and adults. He has presented on education topics at regional, national, and international conferences. The Educational Resources Information Center has published his work under accession numbers ED400907, ED400864, ED432112, ED444866, and ED499233. He tutors English and remedial writing at Springfield Technical Community College in Springfield, Massachusetts.

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Title: **The Five-Paragraph Essay: the Crucial First Day of Instruction**

Abstract:

The five-paragraph essay is the basic form for academic writing in numerous educational institutions. While there is a great deal of published literature on teaching the five-paragraph essay, there is very little user-friendly information on how and where to begin instruction. The authors of that literature have largely assumed that learners, like their teachers, are academically adept and accomplished. While this is true of some learners, for many more it is not the case. This situation results in absence of comprehensible input and consequent frustration for many learners. This session suggests a learner-friendly starting point with a simple template that students can construct independently in order to organize their essays and begin academic writing immediately. Students can use this technique to acquire a solid foundation of skills that they can build upon subsequently in order to become successful academic writers. Workshop participants will construct the template that the author proposes and practice filling it in, resulting in a practical working outline with information automatically organized for a coherent five-paragraph essay. They will leave the session with a set of instructional skills that they can apply immediately on returning to their students with no expense for technology or specialized materials.