

UFLA

The Utah Foreign Language Association Newsletter

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Jo Carmiol
UFLA President

Happy Fall everyone!

Now that school has started, hopefully you've established routines that enable you to sit back and enjoy the excitement of a new school year. I challenge you to pause, take a few deep breaths and look around your classroom. What do you see? Have you successfully created a space that supports best practices for language instruction, learning and acquisition?

Here are three things to consider:

Tables versus desks. Tables that group 2 to 4 to 6 students together build a sense of community and take up less space. (And it is okay to preserve an island for students who occasionally need to work in isolation.)

Classroom culture. The learning environment you create sets the stage for language learning. Create a classroom that is rich in language and encourages the students to use the target language.

Linguistic supports. Word walls or anchor charts are types of visuals that provide valuable scaffolding for our budding linguists, but don't go overboard. Focus on vocabulary that supports your current unit or proficiency targets.

For the purpose of this newsletter message, let's focus on **effective linguistic supports** that are found in highly effective world language classrooms. In her book, "7 Steps to a Language-Rich, Interactive Foreign Language Classroom", author Anna Matis provides multiple examples and applications of a variety of visual language supports that

promote language production. Sentence starters and academic stems can be displayed and used to help students know what to say when they don't know what to say. They also provide much needed language support for learners to actively participate in structured conversations and writing activities. Sample structured sentence frames from her highlighted activities include phrases like: We should... / We shouldn't..., It is... / It isn't..., It is important... / It is not important... When we provide specific stems for students to use during pair shares, role-playing or other speaking tasks, we push them to increase their language proficiency.

Examples of linguistic supports include:

- Vocabulary with pictures and words
- Proficiency guides that help students Level Up
- Connectors or other words that help students add details to make longer sentences

Opportunity to share: What do linguistic supports look like in your world language classroom? Please post to [this digital bulletin board](#) a picture from your classroom. Include a comment or brief description with your post. Optional: Add your name or school. React to other pictures.

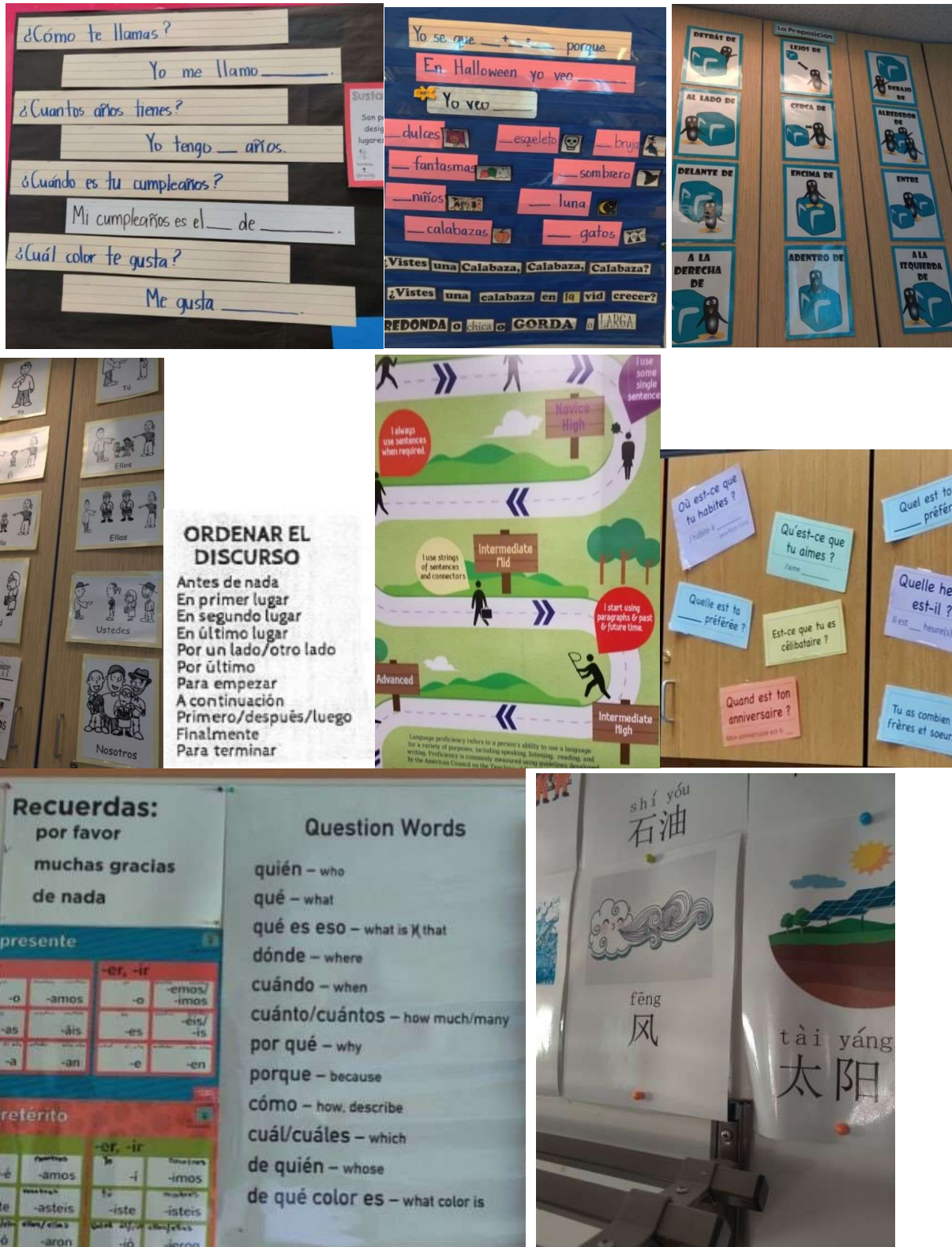
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President's message (continued)

Here are some examples of linguistic supports in the classroom:



UFLA Conference

**UFLA FALL 2023
WEBINAR**

**OCTOBER 7
9AM-10AM**

ZOOM LINK:

**[HTTPS://BYU.ZOOM.US/J/951
48851585](https://byu.zoom.us/j/95148851585)**



**Dr. Cherice Montgomery
Brigham Young University**

CREATIVITY IN A CRUNCH: SIMPLE STRATEGIES FOR SURVIVING & THRIVING

Have you been feeling a little uninspired, crunched for time, or just plain burned out lately? Do you find it increasingly difficult to keep students actively engaged during class time? In this webinar, you'll learn some simple, practical strategies for infusing creativity, fun, and playfulness into your lessons in ways that (1) encourage cultural inquiry through authentic resources, (2) invite communication through critical thinking and collaboration, and (3) foster creative self-expression in the target language.

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**UTAH FOREIGN
LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION**

UFLA Conference and Language News

UFLA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Our Annual Spring UFLA Conference will be returning on February 15, 2024. We look forward to hosting you at Utah Valley University for a day full of sessions.

[We are now accepting proposals to present at the conference. Click on this link for more information.](#)

A poster for the UFLA Annual Conference 2024. The background is split into a light blue left half and a yellow right half. In the center, there are stylized mountain peaks in shades of blue and green. The text 'UFLA ANNUAL CONFERENCE' is at the top in black. Below it, 'FEBRUARY 2024' is written in large, bold, black letters. Underneath that, 'UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY OREM, UTAH' is written in smaller black letters. On the right side, the words 'SAVE THE DATE' are written vertically in large, bold, black letters. At the bottom, the 'UFLA' logo is on the left and 'UTAH FOREIGN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION' is on the right, separated by a horizontal line.

UFLA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 2024

UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY
OREM, UTAH

SAVE THE DATE

UFLA

UTAH FOREIGN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION

German Teachers Institute

The BYU German Teachers Institute will take place May-June 2024. Starting in May next summer, two graduate classes will be held online—one on teaching German culture and one on teaching for proficiency. These two courses can be applied to the BYU MA program in Second Language Teaching. In June, we'll spend three weeks in Vienna! Applications will open in the fall. Please contact Teresa Bell (tbell@byu.edu) for more information.

UFLA Teacher of the Year Nominations

Each year the Utah Foreign Language Association recognizes up to three outstanding foreign language teachers as Teacher of the Year, one in each of these areas:

1. Elementary Education
2. Secondary School
3. Higher Education

For more information and a link to the nomination form, please visit:

<http://www.ufla.net/Awards/Awards-TOY.htm>

Submit nominations to Teresa Bell (tbell@byu.edu) no later than December 15th!

SWCOLT

SWCOLT will be held in Hawai'i this year. [Visit the website for details](https://www.swcolt.org)



SWCOLT and CLTA are collaborating to make webinars from the SWCOLT teachers of the year available to members. If you attended SWCOLT in Salt Lake City last year, you are a member.

Please consider nominating a colleague for a SWCOLT award. Visit <https://www.swcolt.org/awards> for more information.

Excellence in Teacher (Elementary, Secondary, Post-Secondary)

Lifetime Achievement

Friend of the Profession

You can also apply for a variety of scholarships through SWCOLT. Take a look at the offerings and encourage those in your field of influence who would benefit from receiving the scholarship to apply. <https://www.swcolt.org/scholarships>



WEBINAR WEDNESDAYS "BEST OF THE SOUTHWEST"

Featuring 2022-2023 SWCOLT Teachers of the Year

- Register at clta.net*
- Access the 45-min. recording & materials prior to webinar
- Attend a 30-min. live Q&A with the featured Teacher of the Year



Webinar #1
(For upcoming webinars, visit swcolt.org)

*Weds., Sept 13
4 p.m. (Pacific Time)*

NATALIE LALAGOS

Spanish Teacher
Hawaii Teacher of the Year
2023 SWCOLT Teacher of the Year

***\$25 per webinar (Free for CLTA & SWCOLT members!)**
CEUs available through Stanford Continuing Studies

UFLA INFO

UFLA needs YOU

To find out more about how to become more involved in our UFLA organization, complete this survey. (click here)



Would you like to nominate a Teacher of the Year? As a reminder, applications are accepted on our website at ufla.net.

In addition to [Teacher of the Year](#), UFLA also awards the following grants:

[Teacher Vitality Grant](#)

[Pat Buckner Collaboration Grant](#)

Thank you for the many nominations for the UFLA Teacher of the Year Award. Our state is blessed with an abundance of exceptional world language educators. We will announce this year's Teacher of the Year winners and other award recipients during the upcoming SWCOLT conference.

UFLA Mission

The Utah Foreign Language Association exists to promote the learning of world languages and cultures in the state of Utah and beyond. Specifically, the mission of UFLA is to:

- Support world language teaching and acquisition at all academic levels, including traditional instruction and dual language immersion programs
- Disseminate information and provide opportunities for the exchange of ideas and resources to support language teaching and learning
- Offer professional development opportunities for language teachers
- Recognize excellence in language teaching and learning
- Collaborate with regional and national language teaching organizations
- Advocate for public policy that promotes language learning and supports the needs of language teachers and students

UFLA WEBSITE

The UFLA Website has now moved to <http://ufla.net>

It's a new name, but with all the content we have always had on the site. If you only visit once a year to register for the conference, come see what else we have on ufla.net (including copies of the newsletters going back over twenty years.) We will also post handouts from presentations at our upcoming conference on the new UFLA website.

We also hope you will join [UFLA on Facebook](#) and on our new Instagram account ([@ufla_utah](#)). Come participate in the conversation!



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Advertising Information

The UFLA Newsletter is published three times each year in September, January and May. All issues are distributed via e-mail to UFLA members as well as posted on the UFLA website.

Advertising rates are available at:
[UFLA Sponsorship Opportunities](#)

Contact Branden Lansing at blansing@dsdmail.net with any questions or to place an ad.