Using Picture Prompts -- 2010 New York State Association of Bilingual Education (NYSABE) Presentation

When participants walked out of a workshop facilitated by the Asian Languages Bilingual/ESL Technical Assistance Center (ALBETAC), on March 13 at the 2010 NYSABE Annual Conference, they could not stop talking about the fun that they had in the workshop and how they could implement the strategies in the classroom. The workshop, *Using Speaking and Writing Picture Prompts with Students of Multiple Levels of Linguistic Abilities*, presented by ALBETAC Director Pat Lo and Resource Specialist Susan Rui, attracted nearly 40 participants on a stormy Saturday morning. Teachers and administrators were eager to learn innovative strategies to motivate their multi-level ELLs. This workshop, focusing on student output (both speaking and writing), encourages teachers to use pictures as prompts for storytelling. Using the picture prompt, students engage in the three stages of language production: describing the picture, talking about what is happening *now*; imagining what happened *before* the picture; and, making a prediction of what *will* happen. This process provides a step by step structure for students at various linguistic levels to express their ideas through pair or group work.

Sample feedback from participants:

“… well prepared, very animated… both informative and fun."

“... very interactive and engaging. I will use this as a model for future lessons.”

“I will turn key to my ESL teachers.”

“The presentation was quite thorough. … this could be done in a classroom with students at different proficiency levels.”