

TESL Toronto Spring 2012 Conference

Comprehension improvement through collaborative reading circles

Sample Text 1 – Discussion Leader

\$201,000 miggleloth boop edected after caccil to Canada

A Memony blablen got a miggleloth boop that lirfed blable nammered \$201,000. It was no fizzle. The blablen has blablen's two zexis on her rippy. They are shiffloth and defojth. The easiest way for zexiey to fojoop is by hebbling. Normally, that's not a premp. Blable has a jippy rippy that usually quents about \$175. But while blablen's zexis were cacciling for two meefs in Canada, they mooged over 2,000 hebles and also hippled kempos, sometimes totalling \$2,000 in jippy edects. Blable never nekled to a plodderith rippy. T-Miggleloth told the blablen the boop was eefizzle. She called Memony TV noo, WSVN, which durgeoned T-Miggleloth. The station reports that T-Miggleloth spacked the blablen's boop to \$2,500 and gave the blablen six chitties to sevo.



Sample text 2 & 3 – Contextualiser, Visualiser

Maritime museum seeks funds for gunboat study

By JOHN FLOWERS

FERRISBURGH — The Lake Champlain Maritime Museum (LCMM) is seeking \$100,000 for the final studies it needs before recommending a preservation plan for the Revolutionary War-era gunboat Spitfire that remains docked in its watery grave at the bottom of the lake. And one of the tools the LCMM will use to try and raise the needed funds will be a short film — currently in the final stages of production — that tells the history of the Spitfire and its 1997 discovery in the depths of Lake Champlain. Art Cohn, executive director of the LCMM, said plans call for the film to be aired on Vermont Public Television later this year. Museum officials have spent the past 11 years carefully crafting a plan for the Spitfire, one in a small fleet of gunboats commanded by Benedict Arnold during the Battle of Valcour Island on Oct. 11, 1776. All of Arnold's boats, except the New York, were destroyed by the British, captured or scuttled by the Continental Army. While British forces won the battle, Arnold's forces damaged the British fleet enough to send it back to Canada to regroup, thereby giving the Americans time to galvanize their own forces for a winning war effort.

Occupy Wall Street: what would Gandhi say?

by Ruchira Gupta / Wednesday 21 December 2011 15.39 GMT

... Here are just two of hundreds of acts that could be opened up as public possibilities. Vets returning from Iraq and Afghanistan often say they just want to be listened to and know their experience is honoured by attention at home. ... Shelters for the homeless are often so dirty and dangerous that the street is preferable. This would be a lot less possible if neighbourhoods or corporations or colleges organized their members to clean and monitor a shelter for a few hours each week. These actions at the bottom may seem small right now. Gandhi's Salt March to the sea when he defied the English salt-making monopoly by leading thousands to collect and make their own salt must have seemed small then. Rosa Parks refusing to change her seat on a bus must have also seemed small at that time.

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Sample text 4 - Summariser

Gambling addictions: An increasing hazard among youths

By Selina Gonzalez

A multitude of pathways to youth addiction

The reasons underlying a person's gambling addiction are more difficult to pinpoint than those explaining why that person began gambling in the first place. There are several personality, physiological, and psychological factors, however, that are common to most youth gamblers and may suggest reasons why these youths become addicts. Young gambling addicts are found to be more impulsive, excitable, extroverted, anxious, self-blaming and emotionally unstable than young non-gamblers. They are also greater risk-takers, have an "increased physiological resting state," and are less self-disciplined than the average teenager (Derevensky et al., 244). These traits may be the fundamental causes of their disordered behaviour in some cases. Many adolescents with gambling problems also have "unresolved underlying issues" (Pridmore, par. 4)...

Sample text 4 – Connector

Ghosts of Guatemala's Past

By STEPHEN SCHLESINGER, NEW YORK TIMES, JUNE 3, 2011

Washington feared Arbenz because he tried to institute agrarian reforms that would hand over fallow land to dispossessed peasants, thereby creating a middle class in a country where 2 percent of the population owned 72 percent of the land. Unfortunately for him, most of that territory belonged to the largest landowner and most powerful body in the state: the American-owned United Fruit Company.

Sample Text 5 - Highlighter

Why the U.S. Did Not Overthrow Saddam Hussein

By Stephen Zunes / November 1, 2001 / Foreign Policy in Focus

There has been a curious bout of revisionist history in recent weeks criticizing the U.S. decision not to "finish the job" during the 1991 Gulf War and overthrow the Iraqi government of Saddam Hussein. With such [an unbalanced] victory in the six-week military campaign, these right-wing critics argue the U.S. could have easily marched into the capital of Baghdad and [overthrown] the dictator.

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