

2011.01.19 12:48:12 Login

Room: MenTESOL\_Grp

MarinaG joined the room.

AngiM: Hi there!

MarinaG: so here we are!

AngiM: indeed!

AngiM: there is presumably 'only' this synchronous chat function?

MarinaG: good! if you want, we can talk privately even here, by clicking on the actions part

AngiM: eh?

MarinaG: if you take a look at the top of this box, there is one that says actions

AngiM: Is this private now ...or?

MarinaG: basically, as you say, we will only use this function, but if you need anything, we are connected through skype

AngiM: yes - no problem. I'm here. Do I have time to check an email or two?

AngiM: check

MarinaG: even more!!

MarinaG: i'll be probably helping people login and val should be arriving in a while. shef can't make it today because these are wee hours in [india](#)

AngiM: OK - see you shortly

JeffC joined the room.

JeffC: Hi all, I'm on Tapped In Helpdesk. Sorry I was on the phone when you logged in.

JeffC: I think you all might be in the wrong TESOL group (not positive though)

MarinaG: don't worry jeff, valerie told us you would join us. it is still early, but angi is our guest speaker so we wanted to have her "in" so as not to rush.

MarinaG: why?? do you say the wrong tesol?

JeffC: if you're part of this year's EVO group, type /showprofile JohnAI (right here in chat, starting with the slash). that will bring up his profile page, then there's a link to TESOL EVO Vocabulary

AngiM: Thanks - but we're 'mentoring', not 'vocabulary'!

MarinaG: right! as angi says!

AngiM: I'm sure - if Marina is here and it's Valerie's group that it's the right place for me.

JeffC: ok... i just asked because the group owner, Valerie Jakar hasn't logged in since January.

AngiM: She'll be here tonight, I'm sure!

JeffC: great! i'll just return to Reception unless you have any questions

AngiM: Thanks Jeff - do help any other lost 'mentors' here..

MarinaG: fine jeff! we will be here, we may have a number of members joining in for the first time, and it should be for this group

JeffC: will do

MarinaG: thanks!!

JeffC: perhaps this group would consider collaborating with TESOL EVO Vocabulary (making it easier for members of both to share)

MarinaG: we can consider that after today's chat, we will ask valerie about it

AngiM: Umm - VERY different focus I'd say - wouldn't you Marina? One (the vocab one) is interested in an aspect of language learning/teaching - while this is focussed on teacher learning support .. well for me pretty different conversations - drawing on different knowledge bases

JeffC: there's also Webheads in Action (an international group of TEFL/ESL educators, and several other ESL related groups at TI)... not to mention quite a few [language arts groups](#) as well (i'd recommend [Language Arts K-12](#), [Joy of Storytelling](#) and perhaps [WriteTalk](#)). feel free to chat about the possibilities tonight and i'll be happy to facilitate collaboration with you.

JeffC: collaborating just means that members of one room may post to Discussion in another... also features a Passageway

AngiM: Oh OK - good idea ...

JeffC: i moderate several of the other groups... here's what i'll do... i'll send invitations to collaborate from them to you... and after you talk to Valerie about it you can accept or decline

AngiM: this group could have a 'passageway' to any subject teaching group too then - as it relates to support for teacher learning

JeffC: right... we have over 500 professional development groups, university and K-12

classrooms here

AngiM: ah - rather a lot then!

JeffC: i've helped a number of ESL K-12 classes collaborate (ESL students in Uruguay working with Spanish learning students in the US for example)

JeffC: right... it's just a matter of finding groups that have similar/supporting issues

AngiM: Yes indeed.

AngiM: I expect we'll talk about it then tonight (well it's 'tonight' for me!)

JeffC: like you said... the TESOL Vocab group has a different focus than this one... but it's not like you're a football coach trying to collaborate with a physics professor (although sports physics is definitely a point of connection!)

AngiM: they're everywhere - connections I mean

JeffC: anyhow... i'll leave you for now... i'll send those invitations and then be in Reception if you need help. yup... that's the point of the net i think!

JeffC waves bye for now

AngiM: bye for now

JeffC left the room.

MarinaG left the room (signed off).

Room: MenTESOL\_Grp

MarinaG joined the room.

AngiM: Hi again..

MarinaG: hi again, i clicked something wrong and left the room..

AngiM: I wondered where you had gone!

MarinaG: no, i jst sent a message to val on skype

AngiM: ah right .. she'll be here soon no doubt

MarinaG: i think i have seen two of our members at the reception, i'll go there and come back

AngiM: there was some confusion over the date - at one point she was talking to me about the 18th

AngiM: OK .. see you soon

MarinaG: yes, but only to her, no info was different for users..

MarinaG left the room.

Room: TI\_Reception

MarinaG joined the room.

MarinaG: hi yuly, are you here for mentoring?

YulyA left the room (signed off).

MarinaG left the room.

Room: MenTESOL\_Grp

MarinaG joined the room.

AngiM: Hello again - were they coming here?

ValerieJ joined the room.

ValerieJ: A snall select group i see. Forgive me if i come and go, come and go. My internet keeps fading.

AngiM: Sorry to hear that

ValerieJ: Good to see you angi. Thank ou for being with us.

AngiM: no problem we'll understand

AngiM: You too ..

AngiM: glad to be here

AngiM: So Marina, Val - do you wnat to kick us off?

ValerieJ: Have you seen an outline of our membership ?

ValerieJ: Are you aware of th enature o fthe group?

MarinaG: as you think, I am going to the reception to help people in

ValerieJ: Thanks Marina

MarinaG left the room.

Room: TI\_Reception  
MarinaG joined the room.  
MarinaG: hi yuly  
YulyA: HI Marina, do you know how to get to the chat of the group?  
MarinaG: check the search button and  
YulyA: I am kind of lost  
YulyA: lost  
MarinaG: don't worry I am here  
YulyA: I am in the group place  
MarinaG: fine, type mentoring tesol  
MarinaG: and then below, click on find it  
MarinaG: can you see it?  
AdrianaC joined the room.  
MarinaG: Hi adriana are you for mentoring?  
YulyA: I already did - it says 0 matches  
MarinaG: strange.. type agan mentroing tesol 2011  
YulyA: found it. it took me to the group  
MarinaG: sorry mentoring  
YulyA: so what should I do now  
MarinaG: great! join, and go tho the group room, анги is already there  
AdrianaC: Hi Marina! Yes, sorry, I'm a bit lost  
YulyA: I already did  
MarinaG: no problem adriana!  
AdrianaC: first time here  
MarinaG: do the following, click on the search tab above and then click on groups  
YulyA: I saw what the members are, but I don't see the chat they are having  
AdrianaC: I already did but it didn't work. Will try again  
MarinaG: yuly, did you join the group?  
YulyA: yes

YulyA: I am a member  
MarinaG: good, yuly, then at the bottom you should find an icon of a door and telling you you can enter the room  
MarinaG: Adriana, how about you?  
YulyA: Did you click there? I did and it took me to another screen with info about the group  
AdrianaC left the room.  
MarinaG: ok, let's try another thing. use the me tab  
YulyA: ok  
MarinaG: there in groups, mentroing should appear as one of your groups  
YulyA: right  
MarinaG: click on the link and it should take you there  
YulyA: where it says location  
YulyA left the room (signed off).  
MarinaG left the room.

Room: MenTESOL\_Grp  
MarinaG joined the room.  
YulyA: Hi Angi. I was kind of lost, but I am glad I am here now.  
YulyA: Thanks Marina.  
MarinaG: loved being a virtualdoorwoman!!  
AdrianaC: yes, thanks Marina!  
AngiM: where is everyone located? I know Marina and Val - but Adriana -where are you? -and Yuiy?  
AdrianaC: I'm from Belo Horizonte/Brazil  
YulyA: I am in Arizona. I am a Spanish teacher educator. I work with graduate teaching assistants in my department.  
ValerieJ: Perhaps we can talk about development of a Mentoring culture in the parts of the world we are each from. it seems that marina is at the forefront in argentina.  
YulyA: I think that teachers in general recognize the value of mentoring, but they take it rather

nformally.

ValerieJ: (I am in Israel, working with Israelis and some Palestinians.

YulyA: It doesn't seem to be a structure or system to support it.

ModouM: My name is Modou Mbaye and I'm from Senegal

MarinaG: so forefront that i am alone... as regards the big picture, nothing in the state sector so far, but with some years of implememntetion in the private sector and with an interesting project from our neighbours in uruguay

ValerieJ: But in arizona I think there is a framework fo rmenotrs in the schools system. Yes?

MarinaG: hi modou

AngiM: Senegal! Wonderful - happy you are here ..

ModouM: Hi Everybody!

YulyA: Well, I am not aware of it since I work at the university. I know that in different states like California, they have a well=structured system of support for new teachers.

AngiM: As with all innovations establishing entoring seems to need both bottom-up' and top-down' movements - so if we want ot introduced in our systems it requires what I call 'parallel learning' projects ...

YulyA: who are the participants in these projects?

AngiM: forgive my typos!

MarinaG: can you expand,please? how do thses movements work?

ValerieJ: Yes , parallel Learning?

AngiM: ooh - folks at different layers of 'the onion' - from ministry level - where they need to provide resources ( time to mentor, time for mentor development etc.),

AngiM: right through layers of teacher educators & teachers...

YulyA: yeah, there should be a kind of system to supporting not only the mentees, but also the mentors

YulyA: but as the education budgets are getting thinner that seems to be difficult.

AngiM: with all being supported in learning about, and creating the conditions so that all the people 'under' them (nearer the centre of the action) can learn

YulyA: I agree, conditions should facilitate learning.

ValerieJ: Infiltration into the upper echelons or do the big bods get influenced by experts like yourself?

MarinaG: i have seen a bit of itnerest at the ministry level, mostly because they find it as a cheap way of m professional development, but they look lost

AngiM: Absolutely Yuly - mentoring is NOt the same as , say teaching English ... and folks need the time to develop new skills and acquire a different knowledge-base

ValerieJ: Our Min of Ed have taken it on but they are loath to invest much so that mentors are given enough time (and paid for) to do their job adequatey

YulyA: But we are not given time, we have to jump in just because we have "some many" years of experience teaching a second language.

AngiM: Oh dear Val - I'm not a 'big bod!' - but Marina, that's just the problem - Ministry level folk think that mentoring is inservice teacher development on the cheap - it isn't cheap - different and more effectoive (arguably - if only because what we do know is that the mentors learn and get reenergised ...)

AngiM: Oh Yuly - I sympathise - and that's bad .. at first we are flattered - and then, having been set up to fail/fall on our faces .. we either do a bad job/give up/or work very very hard to gain that extra knowledge we need - not fair on mentors - or their mentees ...

MarinaG: that's right. my personal challenge now is how i can put it into a project so they may consider it seriously.

AngiM: who is 'they'?

AngiM: the ministry?

MarinaG: people at the minsitry od ed, eitehr city level or country. another pssibility is teachers in 2methods" a the teacher training schools here

MarinaG: sorry for typos!!

AngiM: one way is to get 'mentor development' courses as one option in any inservice teacher development programme - so that the principle of mentors needing time for development is established

MarinaG: good point!

YulyA: what kind of content do you envision that course should have?

AngiM: In Romania ( see ASMERO website) they started by working at pre-service level

YulyA left the room (signed off).

ValerieJ: Yes we have that now in our Prof Dev system - but it competes with many other courses so our inspectors coax people away from them towards THEIR pet courses.

AngiM: Oh - what a pity - well do the course for the inspectors first maybe

YulyA joined the room.

AngiM: they too need to not act in 'anti-mentoring' ways...

AngiM: Mentor course content?

YulyA: yes

YulyA: communication skills?

MarinaG: yes, that is what gabriel did in uruguay, he trained supervisors to be mentor trainers

AngiM: skills in noticing, managing post-lesson conversations, scaffolding, interpersonal skills work

AngiM: Yes that's a very useful way ..

AngiM: it's important too that mentors develop an understanding of teacher learning - he process that they have to scaffold too

YulyA: Do you know of any reference detailing a mentor training experience?

ValerieJ: I cam across a trainer' who is a Coach (in her private practice) and a supervisor. She was So assertive - I felt she would make a terrible mentor! Supervisors are not always the best mentros or mentor trainers

YulyA: A model that we can get ideas from.

AngiM: I'd rather train teachers to be mentors first, then - build on that to become mentor trainers - and include inspectors in mentor development courses - or do separate ones so that they understand and can adjust their ways of supervising to complement mentoring - but it depends on the system

YulyA: I agree Val. If you are in a supervisor role, you're pretty much assessing how instruction is being delivered.

MarinaG: right!! I remember we did an exercise in the training of these future mentor trainers and thier tone of voice, attitude were sos strong that i was an important point of their training for them to realise the road they had started...

AngiM: True ... but as I say 'it depends'

ValerieJ: Ot 'its depend" as they say here

ValerieJ: .....

MarinaG: right, the paralell process

AngiM: In Romania, for example, the mentor tainers who have trained several thousand mentors are all still teachers - and were trained and experienced mentors first

AngiM: and still mentor

ValerieJ: This brings us back to that dilemma - can a supervisor be someone's mentor?

Officially.

AngiM: I don't think so

AngiM: - for me ..

ValerieJ: I agree. But I am being told by the authorities hat it is expedient..... \$\$\$ again!

AngiM: we can if we're supervising, do it in a s mentorly way as possible, but by definition almost - if I am judging you I am not helping you to make your own informed judgments

AngiM: and you will not feel safe enough to 'be normal' and not try to live up to my expectations

..

ValerieJ: further, i am accused of being too touchy feely [ like a counselor which was my training.

AngiM: Oh Val - a problem everywhere ...

MarinaG: I have used the idea of mentor coach. so i was not a mentor beign the DoS, but the mentor's trainer and roied to detach from the situation. i know there is a leve of ambguity, but it's what i could think of

ModouM: In Senegal supervisors are usually taken as mentors

AngiM: in many parts of the wolrd 'mentoring' is another word for 'supportive supervision' of one kind or another

AngiM: Mentor coach seems a useful idea ( for me coaching is or could be part of mentoring)

MarinaG: Yes, I agree with you, coaching is a tool for mentors, mostly in ebriefing

ModouM: for me coaching is part of mentoring

ValerieJ: Yes, one CAn supervise with a mentor (advisory) approach. But I sense that our supervisors are so concerned withtheir

AngiM: Modou - yes, in many places where it is taken for granted that giving people advice is

the best way of supporting teacher learning (it isn't in my view!) this is the case - supervisor=mentor - the two are not really distinguished.

YulyA: so what is coaching then?

ValerieJ: image that they wouldn't be prepared to 'step down' from that high place.....they occupy

MarinaG: thinking bout modou's comment, is there any clarification we can provide as regards supportive supervisors and mentors

AngiM: we're struggling with definitions! - coach, supervisor, mentor!

AdrianaC: and we cannot forget teacher trainers :)

ValerieJ: I see a woman with a whip when I hear 'teacher trainer'

AngiM: for me 'coach' supports skill development - and there is a shared - ideally - view of 'good practice' /a right way of doing something ..

AngiM: hee hee

MarinaG: yes, there are so many versions... and mentoring and coaching are being applied in companies so it is...

MarinaG: mrs trunchbull, as in Matilda, right?

AngiM: I talk about ToTs - teachers of teachers ( where teaching = supporter of learning and not 'teller')

AngiM: ToTs may teach groups ( as in 'teacher training') or an individual ( as in mentoring) - strategies will be very different in these two situations, but it's the same learning process that is being supported and must underpin both

YulyA: Yes, we don't want a mentee being a copy of his/her mentor

AngiM: Quite

ValerieJ: So do you remember my 'communities of learners? 2008? 's what i try to build up with people taking the IMetor course.

AngiM: Yes, quite again!

ValerieJ: an even on this EVO we could build a few groups of Learners.

YulyA: Sorry, I have to go now. Discussion is really interesting, but I have to teach a class in three minutes. Nice being part of this discussion. I hope we can get together again.

AngiM: I think that's probably what the moderators of Tapped In hope for ...

MarinaG: thanks yuly!

AngiM: Bye Yuly - happy teaching - hope to see you again

YulyA: Same here. Bye.

YulyA left the room (signed off).

ValerieJ: Can we meet again next week for another chat? I have to sign out.

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thanks for being with us. Hopefully we'll recruit some more for next time.

AdrianaC: thank you. Bye

ValerieJ: BTW< OK If I put this chat online for people to read?

AngiM: Will be in touch - maybe bot next week - am on my travels..

ValerieJ: Nothing incriminating was said, was it?

AngiM: hope not!

ValerieJ: apart from my remarks about Ministry people!!!

AngiM: hee hee

MarinaG: not that I am conscious of!!

ValerieJ: SO thanks Angi . And we'll see you - so o speak - in two weeks, yes?

MarinaG: ok, so we stay in touch for future, I think touching upon mentees would be interesting, what do you think?

BjB: **[\*\* ANNOUNCEMENT: The TI: Learning Hub Tips and Tricks tour of the main features of Tapped In is starting in the group room. To participate type /join BJB in this chat window. \*\*]**

AngiM: My bed is calling - yes 2 weeks ...

AdrianaC left the room (signed off).

MarinaG: Thanks angi!!!!!!!!!!!!

MarinaG: sleep well

AngiM: no probs - time flew!

ValerieJ: Nite!

AngiM: thanks .. byee  
MarinaG: great to hear thata!  
ModouM: Bye!  
MarinaG: nite vall!  
MarinaG: bye modou!  
AngiM: bye all ...  
ModouM: bye Marina  
AngiM left the room (signed off).  
ValerieJ left the room.  
ModouM left the room (signed off).  
MarinaG left the room (signed off).