



Literacy Volunteers of America

Essex & Passaic Counties

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Using Cinema to Enhance the ESL Learning Experience

Presenter, Antonio Brugnoli

Platform: Google Meet

Thursday, March 16, 2022, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Presenter's biography:

Antonio Brugnoli is the Education Manager for Project Literacy of Greater Bergen County and ESL (English as A Second Language) Instructor for Bergen Community College, Ciraco Learning Center.

I am Antonio Brugnoli, and I worked for 30 years for the State of NJ as an Educational Program Consultant, providing technical assistance to the teachers of the NJ Juvenile Justice Commission and the NJ Department of Corrections. My specialty was standardized testing and teacher training opportunities. In addition, I worked for 21 years part-time as a reference librarian. Currently, I manage the education component and tutor training for Project Literacy of Greater Bergen County, along with teaching ESL at the intermediate level at Bergen Community College, Ciraco Learning Center.

Workshop description:

During the pandemic, many of us were in lockdown. However, this did not stop the need for the English learning experience. It needed to continue, but we just needed to do things differently. A group of asylum-seeking professionals still needed a way to practice every day English during the lockdown while using a virtual platform. When I initially started this group, it was going to be a book discussion group. They wanted to start reading examples of great American literature. For instance, if you search for this online, titles such as "To Kill a Mockingbird" are prominent. However, this would generally be a challenging task for students who read English at about a second-grade level. I began to explore how I could deliver what the students wanted and produced the idea of watching movies made of the same book titles. Thus, our Sunday evening movie discussion group was born, and we have been meeting for almost three years now. So far, this has been an enjoyable, rewarding, and successful way to enhance the ESL learning experience.

