

Understanding African American English (AAE): A Framework for Course Development

Date: Saturday, May 3, 2014
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Location: Inlingua Aventura Center
19020 NE 29th Avenue
Aventura, Florida 33180

Trainer: Richard E. McDorman, Director of Programs and Professional Development

Summary of Workshop Content: During this five hour seminar, a detailed framework for incorporating information about African American English (often referred to as AAE, a variety of American English commonly but not exclusively spoken by African-Americans in the United States) in adult ESL programs will be presented. While the primary focus of this workshop will be the exposition of how and why instruction in AAE should be included in adult ESL programs, the structure and use of AAE will be an integral component of the workshop. The trainer will also present original research on the topic and course materials created for use in a module on AAE for advanced English language learners.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

During this five-hour workshop, participants will ...

1. Consider the feasibility of the proposed framework for course development, including constraints, available resources and real-world issues relevant to the task.
2. Learn about the history, structure (syntax and morphology), phonology, lexicon and use of African American English (AAE), including language prestige, bi-dialectalism, diglossia and code-switching.
3. Explore and discuss why information about non-standard forms of English, including and especially AAE, should be presented to adult English language learners in the United States.
4. Review a comprehensive framework for incorporating instruction in AAE in adult ESL programs that includes a course syllabus, suggested instructional materials, detailed lesson plans, listening and reading activities, worksheets, audiovisual materials and assessment instruments.

Recommended reading:

McDorman, Richard E. (2012). *Understanding African-American English (AAE): A Course in Language Comprehension and Cross-Cultural Understanding for Advanced English Language Learners in the United States*.

Available at [http://tesolblog.org/Course%20Development%20Project Richard%20McDorman.pdf](http://tesolblog.org/Course%20Development%20Project%20Richard%20McDorman.pdf).

Instructors of all languages are invited to attend this workshop. Please confirm your attendance with Assistant Director Sandra Manso via e-mail at smanso@inlingua-if.com.