

Creativity in the Classroom

By Leonie Overbeek

Creativity, critical thinking, entrepreneurial ability, twenty-first century skills – these are all things that are now needed in the classroom of today and the future.

When people are asked to define creativity, the overwhelming response is that it has to do with something new, and with the imagination, and with thinking. Many people also feel that it is something that can be taught, and that schools manage to kill it. There is also the feeling that creativity rests on the shoulders of a chosen few, and those mainly in the arts. Or that it is something you are “born with.” Yet, the ability to create is innate in every human being, and the drive to create something underlies all activities.

Creativity is, in my opinion, nothing more nor less than the ability to manipulate your environment in some manner. And that is what being human is all about – we manipulate things around us all the time. Solving problems, cooking a meal, rearranging a room, or writing a new app – these are all examples of creativity at work.

Workshop participants will have a chance to test their own creativity, since it is crucial that a teacher understands whatever he or she wants to share with students. Participants will then have a chance to discuss various definitions of creativity and the implications of each, and examine some suggestions about how creativity can be implemented in the EFL classroom.

THE PRESENTER

Leonie Overbeek holds qualifications in analytical chemistry and chemical engineering from the University of Johannesburg, an MPhil in value and policy studies (organizational communication) from Stellenbosch University, and a TESOL



certificate from Boston Language College. She taught at middle school level in South Korea for seven years. She now teaches elementary school children, and loves every minute. She likes to write, paint and cook in such spare time as she has, and recently had a

successful exhibition of her watercolor paintings. She was the secretary of Korea TESOL for three years, and constantly attends and presents at meetings and conferences, as she is an avid supporter of KOTESOL and its activities.

Leonie will present on Creativity in the Classroom at the August 12th workshop of the Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter of KOTESOL at Gwangju National University of Education (Room 811).

Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter Officers: 2016-17

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Joining Korea TESOL

Who May Join: English teachers of any level or nationality are eligible to join KOTESOL. We welcome native and non-native speakers teaching at primary schools, secondary schools, language institutes, colleges and universities, and other organizations. University students may join as student members.

What Memberships Types Are Available?

- **Regular 1-Year Membership:** 50,000 won.
- **Lifetime Membership:** 500,000 won. Student and International Membership options are also available.

How to Join: Apply by using the online membership form at <http://www.koreatesol.org/>. On the front page, click on "Join KOTESOL" in the menu, and follow the directions.

Alternately, paper membership application and renewal forms are available at Chapter meetings for those who prefer making a hard-copy application with Chapter assistance.

Membership payment may be made by:

- Bank transfer to **KOTESOL:** KEB-Hana bank account number 299-890069-83204.
- Payment in cash to the Chapter Membership Officer at a Chapter Meeting.

What's Up with Upcoming Events?

September 9th Meeting Presentation & Roundtable

There will be a regular 45-minute presentation – Topic and presenter to be announced.

The second session will be a set of Roundtable Discussions. Several roundtables (workstations) will be set up around the room, and every teacher will be expected to have prepared at least one item to present to the group for discussion – two or three or more would be even better.



Here is a list of possible items to bring to the meeting:

- A problem that's driving you up the wall (concerning ELT, students, colleagues, the administration, etc.).
- A question about the English language that makes you go "Hmmm..."
- A head-scratching question about why Korean learners make certain English mistakes.
- A teaching method- or technique-related question that you have.
- A half-finished idea that's looking for help for completion.
- An activity or game you love (i.e., a swapshop type of item).

- An activity that seems like it will work fabulously, but has hidden pitfalls. (Things to beware of!)
- A longing to listen and help your fellow KOTESOL teachers!

October 28th Meeting (4th Saturday) Super SwapShop & Halloween Party

Following on the success of last year's October meeting, the upcoming October meeting will feature a 90-minute swapshop, followed by a Halloween party.

For the swapshop session (2:00–3:30 pm), attendees are asked to prepare at least one item to share with the group on any of the following three topics:

- Halloween-Related SwapShop Topics
- Favorite Take-Aways from the International Conference
- General ELT SwapShop Topics

For the Halloween Party portion of the day (3:30–5:00 pm), everyone is encouraged to come in masks, make-up, and/or costumes. Halloween-themed refreshments will be available, but snack and drink contributions by attendees are welcome.

September 30th Reflective Practice SIG Event Day of Reflection 2017

Reflective Practice Workshops featuring Dr. Thomas Farrell

The annual RP-SIG Day of Reflection is coming up the last Saturday of September. The full day of workshops will feature a 90-minute workshop by worldwide reflective practice authority, Dr. Thomas Farrell of Brock University, Canada. Two of the other one-hour workshops will be by Jocelyn Wright and Maria Lisak. At Sookmyung Women's University in Seoul.

Gwangju-Jeonnam KOTESOL August Chapter Meeting

- Time: Saturday, August 12, 2017, 1:45–5:00 p.m.
- Place: Gwangju Natl. University of Ed., Teacher Training Bldg., Room 811 (1st Floor)

■ Schedule: Chapter Meeting, Main Session

1:45 pm: Sign-in and Meet-and-Greet (Admission is free for first-timers. Future membership is welcomed.)

2:00 – 2:50 pm: PRESENTATION: Part 1
Creativity in the Classroom: The Talk
 Leonie Overbeek (Elementary School in Gyeonggi)

2:50 – 3:15 pm: Refreshment Break

3:15 – 4:05 pm: PRESENTATION: Part 2
Creativity in the Classroom: Hands-on Work and Discussion
 Leonie Overbeek

4:15 – 4:45 pm: SwapShop Session (Open to All)
 Everyone is encouraged to share their Teaching Discoveries and Secrets with the group.
 Share your Teaching Tips, Ideas, Classroom Activities, Games, ELT Books, or other Teaching
 Wisdom. (Handouts welcomed.)

4:45 – 5:00 pm: Announcements / Drawing for Door Prizes / Closing

After-Meeting Dinner at The First Alleyway downtown.

Upcoming Chapter Events

September 9, 2017. Monthly Chapter Meeting.
 Gwangju National University of Education

October 28, 2017. Super SwapShop & Halloween Party.
 Gwangju National University of Education

Upcoming KOTESOL Events

September 23, 2017. Christian Teachers SIG Symposium
Restorative Approaches in ELT
 Hadong University, Pohang

September 30, 2017
Reflective Practice SIG: “Day of Reflection”
 RP Workshops Featuring Dr. Thomas Farrell
 Sookmyung Women’s University, Seoul

October 21–22, 2017.
25th KOTESOL International Conference
Why Are We Here? Analogue Learning in a Digital Era
 Sookmyung Women’s University, Seoul

Reflective Practice SIG

No August Morning Meeting

Next RP-SIG Meeting:
 September 9 (11:00-12:30)

Jocelyn Wright facilitating.
 At Coffee Lab Mujii (Woori Church)