

# MIDTESOL MATTERS



The Mid-America TESOL Affiliate Newsletter

July 2014

## Message from the President

Happy summer, MIDTESOL!

I hope you are enjoying some of these warm days in between the rainstorms! MIDTESOL members had a productive spring in regards to professional development with enthusiastic attendance as presenters and participants at the [TESOL 2015 International Convention](#) in Toronto in March. Thanks for stopping by to say Hi at the MIDTESOL Board Booth in the Exhibitor's Hall and enjoying the well-attended MIDTESOL social gathering at a local pub called *C'est What?* Members continued to expand their network of resources closer to home in April by attending a [TESOL & SLA Development Conference](#) at Missouri State University in Springfield (breakfast was sponsored by MIDTESOL) and the [Iowa International Education Conference](#) at The University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls. Look for the important educator support publications that have come out of the [Center for Intercultural and Multilingual Advocacy](#) at Kansas State University this spring, as well.

Speaking of continued growth, your MIDTESOL Board just wrapped up its summer board meeting with a site visit at the University of Iowa in preparation for the annual [MIDTESOL Fall Conference](#) – “The Future Is Now: Building New Traditions in TESOL” – in Iowa City, IA, October 23-24, 2015, and it looks like a great venue! Register now to reserve a good spot! The board also did some strategic planning about how to better serve you, so look for a membership survey coming in September so you can let us know your needs and aspirations. We recently added a page for [Jobs in TESOL](#) to the [MIDTESOL](#) website and we will be adding access to other professional development material and networking opportunities soon.

Thank you all for your dedication to English language teaching and be sure to [let me know](#) what we can do to help you foster excellence! Joy and wonder in all you do!

Terry Barakat  
Current President  
MIDTESOL Board

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**- Terry Barakat**

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## In This Issue

- State by State Update
- Details on Regional Conferences happening soon
- Explore EdTech with Socrative
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## Editors' Highlights

Editors Kurtis Foster and Laura McBride

Hello all MIDTESOLers!

We would like to highlight a few pieces in this issue to insure that no one misses the accomplishments of colleagues and opportunities that are coming up for both teachers and students in the region:

Please drop us a line with any questions you have about finding information about MIDTESOL or getting your information and ideas to the region

### Editors:



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## Message from the Past President

As part of our ongoing strategic planning, MIDTESOL will be conducting a survey of members in early fall. We're interested in your ideas for improving our associations, so watch for your invitation to participate shortly after Labor Day!

Shaeley Santiago  
MIDTESOL Past President

# Follow Us on Facebook, Instagram and Linked In!

Stay current with all MIDTESOL happenings by checking out midtesol on

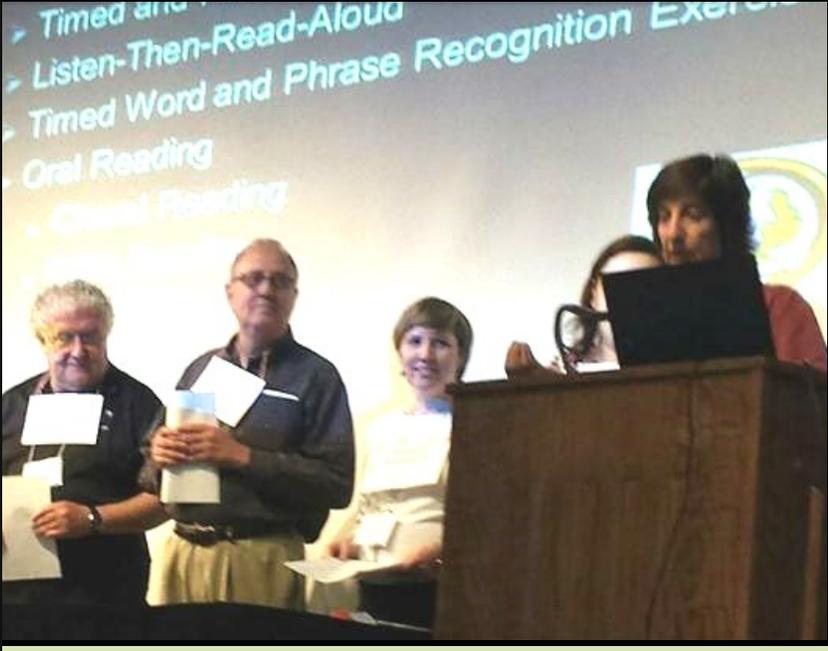
[Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Linked in](#).

Be sure to tag us in your relevant pictures and tweets!



MIDTESOL shared Kimberley Kreicker's photo.  
March 1 · 🌐  
We're so happy to have Nebraska back!

Top: MIDTESOL members in Iowa for the strategic planning meeting.  
Bottom left to right: 1st Nebraska Gathering, Dr. Fredricka Stoller at MIDTESOL 2014



# State by State Update

## News from the Representatives

### Calling All of you in the know:

If you know of an event or an issue in any state that MIDTESOL should be aware of, please contact the State Rep-At-Large, by emailing [midtesol@gmail.com](mailto:midtesol@gmail.com) with the sub-

### News From Iowa, Melissa Meisterheim, state Rep-At-Large



As always, Iowa is action-packed with activities this summer and fall. Here are some of the highlights to keep in mind as you are making plans for professional development:

- MwALT 2015 (Midwest Association of Language Testers) will be held on October 3, 2015 at the University of Iowa. The plenaries will focus their presentations on assessing writing, but other posters and presentations are focused on a variety of language testing. The Plenary Speakers include Dr. Carol Chapelle from Iowa State University, Dr. Christine Tardy from University of Arizona, and a panel discussion led by Dr. Deborah Crusan from Wright State University. This and more information can be found at MwALT's website: <http://www.education.uiowa.edu/teach/foreign-esl/mwalt-2015>
- TSLL: The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Technology for Second Language Learning Conference will be held at Iowa State University from September 18-19<sup>th</sup>. The focus will be on phraseology and formulaic language. Plenaries will be given by Dr. Phillip Durrant from the University of Exeter, UK and Professor Dilin Liu from the University of Alabama. Early bird registration begins July 1<sup>st</sup> and ends September 1. Go to <https://cywrite.engl.iastate.edu/wp/tsll-2015/> for more information.
- StudyIowa's next executive and general meeting is on July 24, 2015 at Briar Cliff University in Sioux City, Iowa. Go to <http://studyiowa.org/> for additional information.
- ICLC: Iowa Language and Culture Conference will be held at the Marriott Convention Center in Coralville, Iowa from November 9-11, 2015. If you are interested in submitting a proposal, the deadline is September 10, 2015. Otherwise, the registration deadline is October 1, 2015. Go to <http://www.iowaclc.com/> for future updates and registration information
- MIDTESOL 2015 will be held in at the Iowa Memorial Union at the University of Iowa in Iowa City from October 23-24. Randi Reppen from Northern Arizona University will give the opening plenary as well as a workshop on effectively using corpora for vocabulary and grammar instruction in a variety of contexts. Be sure to register at [www.midtesol.org](http://www.midtesol.org).

### News From Missouri, Jeanne Severt, state Rep-At-Large

- Mini-Conference in Springfield, Missouri: On April 10, the English Language Institute at Missouri State University held a Professional Development Conference. Presenters came from Missouri, Kansas, Illinois, and Iowa. The conference provided an opportunity to talk about MIDTESOL and to exchange ideas with other teachers. You can find more information here: <http://international.missouristate.edu/eli/pdconference.asp>
- Missouri State University is now proud to offer the CELTA, a world-famous 120-hour English teaching certificate program from University of Cambridge English Language Assessment. The first session is July 13-August 14. Follow this link for more information!
- <http://www.midtesol.org/celta-training-coming-to-missouri-state-university/>
- Population Data Series published an article titled, "The Many Languages of Missouri". To access the full article, go to this website: [http://www.missourieconomy.org/pdfs/population\\_data\\_many\\_mo\\_languages.pdf](http://www.missourieconomy.org/pdfs/population_data_many_mo_languages.pdf)



# EDTech In Focus

## Using Socrative in Reading/Writing Classes

by Katie McClintic, EdTech IS co-chair, University of Kansas

### Socrative: What is it?

[Socrative](#) is a student response system teachers can use to assess and/or pose questions to students. The aggregated results can be seen in real-time, which allows teachers to gauge student understanding of content or see questions from students related to course material. Socrative creates a virtual community within the classroom, allowing students to more easily collaborate, discuss, and contribute to class instruction. Finally, teachers can save the student responses through reports that are generated at the end of each activity. The reports are saved to the Socrative teacher dashboard or compiled in a spreadsheet or PDF.

### How does it work?

Socrative enables students to contribute using tablets, computers and smartphones. Teachers will need to create an account, which provides them with a room code. Students can then log in using the designated room code to answer quiz questions, complete exit tickets, or post questions. To see step-by-step instructions on how to get started with Socrative, you can check out this comprehensive [video](#). This is a great tool to introduce at the beginning of a course so students can get acclimated to using the tool from the very start of the semester.

### Socrative in the classroom

One suggestion is to introduce students to the concept in the computer lab, then help them download the app to their smartphone. The app is compatible with all types of phones—just have students search for “Socrative” in the app store. When students search in the app store, there will be two apps to choose from:



Students only need to download the “student” app. Teachers can download both “student” and “teacher” apps. This allows teachers to control content from mobile devices while allowing them to see the student view as well.

### Suggestions for Using Socrative for Academic Reading/Writing Classes

**Paraphrasing workshop:** One of my course goals is to help students learn to paraphrase appropriately. In class, students work individually to paraphrase sentences. They then use their mobile devices to post their paraphrased sentences using the “quick question” feature. Once all students have posted their sentence, I turn on the “vote” feature, asking students to read everyone’s paraphrases, then vote on which submission most closely meets the criteria for a paraphrase (note: I allow students to post their sentences anonymously. I also ask that students not vote for their own sentence.) Because we have a mediated classroom, I can project the student contributions on screen; we can also look at the voting results in real time. Once students have voted, we look at the top vote getters and discuss what makes it a good paraphrase.

**Vocabulary workshop:** We often practice unit vocabulary by analyzing sentence patterns and collocations. After the analysis, students attempt to use the vocabulary in their own sentences using the same patterns/collocations. Again, students work individually to write their sentences, then post their sentences using the Socrative app on phones or tablets. This allows us to look at everyone’s sentences quickly and easily, discussing the merits of each.

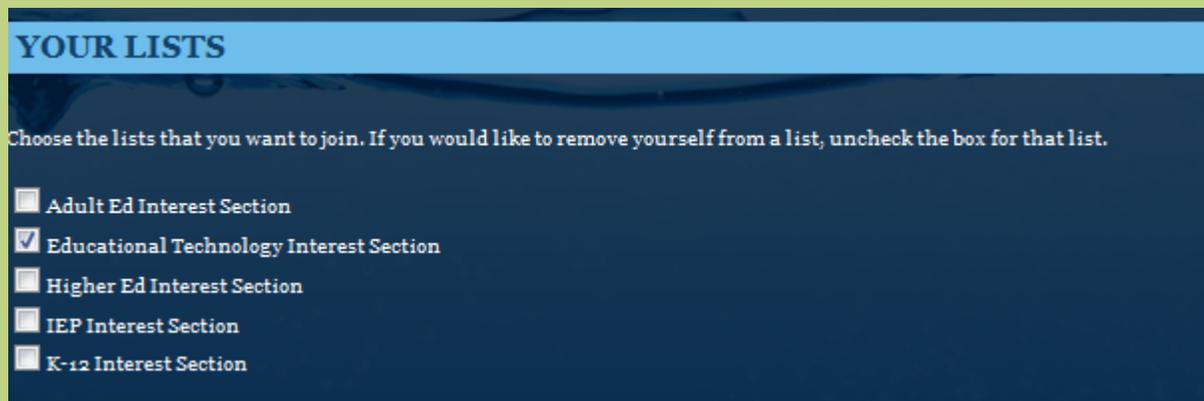
**Reading Comprehension:** Students work in pairs to complete quick quizzes related to reading content. Students can also create discussion questions related to the content, then participate in discussion groups to answer these student produced questions.

# Are you interested in getting involved with our newest IS? Here's what you can do:

Edit your profile setting in your membership file.



Choose Educational Technology as your interest section.



Like us on [Facebook](#) and leave a comment. Share your projects and ideas with us.

Do you have wonderful apps or tools you'd like to share, too? Let's talk!

Join us! Join us! Join us!

# MIDTESOL's Membership Benefits Through CVENT

Last year, your executive board made an important decision to bring our organization into the digital age and make being a MIDTESOL member easier and more beneficial! We purchased a contract with CVENT, an event and membership management system which allows you to register and pay for conferences and memberships all online – no more need to print, write checks, use envelopes, or spend money on stamps! Of course, if you prefer to use postal mail to send us fees, we are still glad to accept checks through the mail, although we do require membership registration be completed online.

Major benefits of this new system include:

- ◆ it puts your membership and registration information at your fingertips. You will always have access to your membership history;
- ◆ the system will remind you when it's time to renew!
- ◆ You can see a record of each conference you have attended starting from October 2013, including workshop sessions.
- ◆ A page highlighting member benefits on the membership website
- ◆ You will find a code to use for a discount on your first TESOL International membership!

## About our Organization

MIDTESOL is a professional organization, an affiliate of International TESOL, whose goal is to support teachers and enhance the teaching of English to Speakers of Other Languages.

MIDTESOL Matters is a quarterly publication and is distributed to subscribers and dues-paying members of MIDTESOL. Articles, Teaching Tips, and Reviews are welcome from all members. The editor reserves the right to edit for space, clarity, or editorial balance. Materials published in MIDTESOL Matters become the property of MIDTESOL and could be shared with other TESOL affiliate organizations.

Expressed opinions do not necessarily reflect the views of MIDTESOL, TESOL, or the MIDTESOL Executive Board.

## Our Mission

The mission of Mid-America Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages is to strengthen the effective teaching of English in Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri to people whose native language is a language other than English while respecting their individual language rights. As a regional affiliate of TESOL and a professional organization, MIDTESOL:

- Supports those involved with English language teaching, teacher education, administration and management, curriculum and materials design, and research;
- Provides leadership and direction through the dissemination and exchange of information and resources;
- Encourages access to the standards for English language instruction, professional preparation, and employment

