

The First Five Years

FRED MATTERS SYMPOSIUM

As a new French teacher, I signed up to attend the FrEd Matters Symposium (www.fredmatters.org) which took place on August 24, 2016. I thought it would be a great way to make connections with other French teachers who had more experience and who I could learn from. I learned about the Symposium via social media and through Steven Langlois, one of the presenters and creator of the DJ DELF kit, which I had purchased last year during my first LTO, and which I found invaluable.



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Upon arrival at the Symposium, we registered, had a light breakfast and a casual meet and greet with other teachers.

Diana Mancuso facilitated the first session. Her workshop began with a clue game from breakoutedu.com that teaches critical thinking, teamwork, and complex problem solving. It offers a very active, fun and hands-on approach to learning French!

She then presented on Google Apps for Education and shared information about Google Chrome Tools including Voice Typing, (where you can dictate French, including punctuation, which is invaluable for Special Education students!), Research Too, (where one can research a topic without leaving the document, AND it cites the source for you!), and Google Forms for class surveys and exit tickets.

The next speaker was Tammy Aiello. She discussed Action Oriented Education via the DJ DELF resource <http://djdelv.com>. She shared ideas of how to apply the resource to real life extensions, such as hosting a café in your school or planning a party. She shared how "Motivating the Unmotivated" can be achieved using resources such as the DELF kits and using online resources such as French Street and Bon Patron.

The third session was facilitated by Maddalena Shipton and Steven Langlois. We did a technological PokÉcole GO hunt using our QR Code Readers on our personal phones or supplied iPads. By scanning each QR code we were shown sites and apps for teaching and learning French such as pic-collage.com, tellagami.com, frenchplayground.com, cafecole.ca, and storybird.com.



Pauline Galea hosted the final session. She shared incredible strategies for classroom management, organization of the class and daily routine. She spoke about the importance of structure, setting up the room as if it were her classroom and gave specific examples of entry routines, whole group activities, small group activities and exit routines, based on her experience and expertise as an AIM teacher. She emphasized that the ideas could be used in non-AIM practices as well!

In conclusion, FrEd Matters was truly an amazing learning experience for me. Not only did I make a number of professional connections, but I also learned from experts about how to organize and manage my new Core French practice. I was introduced to interesting new technology and new Google tricks to use with my students. I am looking forward to future FrEd Matters Symposiums.

Merci beaucoup FrEd Matters! ~ Sonia Zadra

