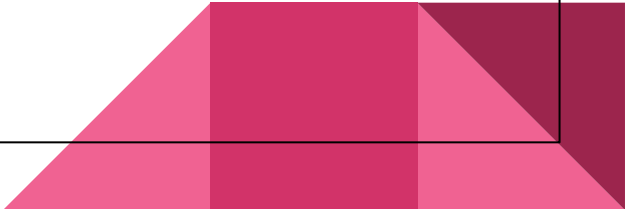


Bridging Academic Culture Gaps for International Teaching Assistants

Presented by Wendy Steinberg and Linda Lee

SFU International Teaching Assistants Program

- Established in 1992
 - Addresses the academic cultural transitions for international/English-as-an-Additional Language (EAL) students and TAs
 - Seminars: 3-session or 10-session
 - Free and open to all new and current SFU graduate students in all disciplines
 - Small groups
 - Nimble, feedback-based curriculum
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The ITA Training Curriculum

- ❖ Critical pedagogy
- ❖ Active listening
- ❖ Teaching vs. lecturing
- ❖ Academic vs. everyday linguistic registers
- ❖ Pop culture and campus life



❖ Critical Pedagogy

- Group discussions
- Intercultural communication
- Modeling best practices by facilitating seminar discussions in different group arrangements
- Icebreakers
- Encouraging participants to ask questions and participate in group interactions



❖ Active Listening

- Contextual clues



Teaching vs. Lecturing

- Asking Questions
- Student-centred model
- Teacher as facilitator
- Icebreakers
- Role-playing scenarios
- Public speaking



❖ Academic vs. Everyday Linguistic Registers

- Role playing exercises
- “Netiquette” and replying to mock student emails



❖ Pop Culture and Campus Life

- English-language media assignment

