

University of South Carolina
The Graduate School
International Teaching Assistant Assessment
coordinated by The Graduate School & English Programs for Internationals
Microlesson Assignment

Candidates are to prepare a "microlesson" to teach to their group. (For this activity, each candidate will be assigned to one of several groups, determined by discipline as much as possible.) This is a very important activity. Please prepare for it accordingly.

TOPIC:

The topic of your microlesson should be related to your field, something you would ordinarily teach to a group of undergraduates at or near the beginning of a course offered by your department. (One possibility could be to present an introduction to a concept or a review of a homework problem. You should choose to teach a small teaching point, something that could be addressed in 5 minutes. Remember that your targeted audience is undergraduates, so be sure to define any technical terms in your presentation.) Make certain that your topic is focused enough to be done within the time limit.

LENGTH: 5-7 minutes (Your presentation will be timed. This time length includes questions from your "class" and your responses to these questions. Your presentation should allow for at least 2 minutes of questions from your "class" and your answers. **Expect for your "class" to ask you questions both during and after your lesson, just as any American student would.**)

AUDIENCE:

Your audience will be composed of your International Teaching Assistant colleagues and instructors from the English Programs for Internationals (EPI). For the initial August ITA assessment, the audience also includes a "veteran" TA, a Linguistics graduate student, and an undergraduate student. They will be playing the role of "undergraduate USC student." Your linguistic performance will be assessed by two EPI instructors who will also consider input from the rest of the assessment team.

You will be evaluated according to the following:

- pronunciation (50%)
- grammar (10%)
- vocabulary (10%)
- general fluency (10%)
- organization (10%)
- cross-linguistic awareness (5%)
- extra-linguistic communicative strategies (5%)

TEACHING MATERIALS:

You may use any of the following: whiteboard/chalkboard, markers/chalk, handouts and/or overhead transparencies (prepared before the session--you need to find and make your own transparencies). A board and overhead projector will be available. **No power point technology is available.**

Your Graduate Director will be notified in writing about your results on the assessment. Please check with your Graduate Director about your assessment, which will be either "satisfactory" (85% – 100%) or "marginal" (75% – 84%) or "at risk" (74% and below). If your assessment is "at risk," you will not be permitted to teach in a USC undergraduate setting.

Your lesson will be recorded and kept on file for one year for review.