Teaching English as a Second Language
Student: Kristen Ahlers | Project Advisor: Joan Chamberlin

Goal:
My goal was to develop effective lessons and materials to teach the adult language learners of the Level 1-2 English Class at Memorial Lutheran Church.

Action:
I met with the program coordinator at Memorial Lutheran Church in Ames, IA to discuss teaching opportunities through the church’s English learning program. The program accepts volunteer teachers for all sessions that take place throughout the academic school year and summer. I volunteered for the summer because they were in need of teachers.

I prepared for teaching sessions by developing lesson plans. (I used the materials supplied by the church.) I then taught my lessons and reflected upon the class sessions.

Learning Outcome:
While I reflected, I found that I needed to focus more deeply on developing effective teaching strategies for my students rather than creating materials.
• Developing activities that work with a range of students
• Preparing extra activities just in case new students arrive for class unexpectedly
• Going with the flow

Special Thanks:
I would like to give a special thanks to the following people for their help with my project: Joan, for her support and advice as my project advisor; Hannah at Memorial Lutheran Church, for allowing me to teach the Level 1-2 English class and for providing me with guidance; and to my students, for attending class, participating in activities, and making our learning memorable.