

## **ESL Personal Statement**

200–250 words

Having an undergraduate degree and a master's in education and being a writer and editor made many people feel that I would be well qualified to teach English to speakers of other languages, so at their prodding I signed up in my church's program. I was able to connect with and provide rich experiences for those speakers who were at high level 3 and above, but have found that when I teach lower levels, I really need to know more about linguistics, second language acquisition, phonetics, and working with people from other cultures.

By default I have become our teacher trainer and have designed a 6-week (once a week) course to train new teachers and table leaders which has given more than 200 people background and skills to use in the classroom. However, the more time I spend in the classroom, the more I realize that there are lots of things I could and should be giving them as tools. One of our real shortcomings is with not having assessments since we do not graduate students to advance them, so I would love to have more background in designing good TESOL assessments we can use.

A Master's in TESOL would give me the background I need to really help our nearly 100 teachers and table leaders, lend meat to the children's curriculum we are writing, and guide the assessments we need to serve the 250 adult immigrants and their 250 children annually.