

Long-Distance Mentoring: from Rural Vermont to the Middle East

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Stern Center for Language and Learning
Fellow Webinar
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Stern Center for Language and Learning

- ▶ Orton-Gillingham Institute
- ▶ Housed within the Cynthia K. Hoehl Institute for Excellence


Director of OG Institute:
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M.Ed., VP of Programming

Founded with Jean Foss, Founding Fellow/AOGPE

Fellows:
Christine Evans
Marcella Fulmer
Sandy Murphy



From rural Vermont...



...to the Middle East









OG Course Overview

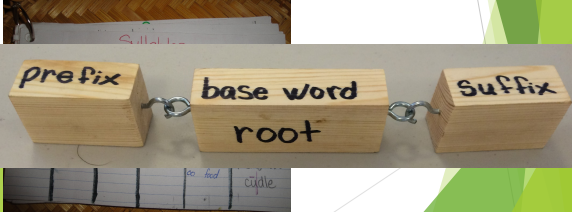


- ▶ OG Classroom Educator course: 4 days (30 hour)
 - ▶ Optional 3 hour End of Year Practicum Meeting
- ▶ OG Associate Level course: 10 days (60+ hour)
 - ▶ 7 days (45+ hour) summer course
 - ▶ 3 days (15 hour) school year seminar throughout the school year*
- ▶ OG Refresher workshop: 3 hours*
 - ▶ Offered twice a year

***Frequently have long-distance attendees**

File Sharing through Dropbox

- ▶ Too many resources and photo files are too large to email www.dropbox.com
- ▶ Assessment folder
- ▶ Photograph examples of student language books and manipulatives shared during the course

Google Hangout

- ▶ Demo:
 - ▶ https://www.google.com/work/apps/business/products/hangouts/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=cc&utm_campaign=na-us-en-hangouts-bkws-gafw-trial-e&utm_term=google%20hangouts
- ▶ phone call or video conference
- ▶ Screen-share
- ▶ Chat window
- ▶ You can have up to 15 active participants with no time limit.
- ▶ Hangouts ON Air- broadcast Hangout to as many participants as you like.





Google Hangout: Getting Started

- ▶ You need to have:
 - ▶ **You and participants must have Google Plus & Gmail account**
 - ▶ www.plus.google.com
 - ▶ *Most* PC need: external headset and webcam
 - ▶ Most webcams have a microphone built in but better to have a separate headphone set
 - ▶ *Most* laptops: microphone & camera built in

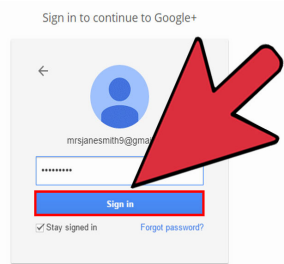
Google Hangout: Getting Started



- ▶ Strongly suggested:
 - ▶ Practice run with trainee a few days before class
 - ▶ Make sure you both have a headset and webcam
- ▶ Benefits:
 - ▶ Absolutely free!
 - ▶ No installation to get started
 - ▶ Easy to use

Google Hangout Step 1

- ▶ <http://www.wikihow.com/Use-Google%2B-Hangouts>
- ▶ Sign in to Google+. You will need a Google account, such as the one you use for Gmail.



Sign in to continue to Google+

←

Profile picture placeholder

mrjanesmith@gmail.com

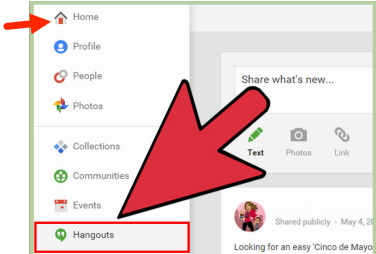
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Sign in

✓ Stay signed in Forget password?

Google Hangout Step 2

- ▶ Find the Hangout frame. The Hangouts are located on the left-hand side of the Google+ page.
- ▶ Here you will see a list of your recent Hangouts as well as recently emailed contacts.



Home

Profile

People

Photos

Collections

Communities

Events

Hangouts

Share what's new...

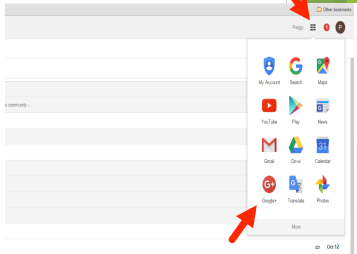
Text Photos Link

Shared publicly - May 4, 2015

Looking for an easy 'Cinco de Mayo

If you can log into Gmail, but can't find hangout...

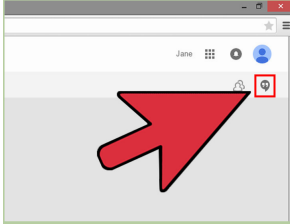
- ▶ Find the square of 9 smaller squares
- ▶ Click on Google+



9 app icons in a 3x3 grid: Mail, Calendar, Photos, Drive, Maps, YouTube, News, Google+, Tasks, Play Store.

Google Hangout Step 3

- ▶ **Create a new Hangout.** Click the “+ New Hangout” field at the top of the Hangouts list.
 - ▶ The list will change to a list of your contacts and Google+ circles. Check the box next to any people that you want to add to the Hangout.
 - ▶ You can also search for people and circles by typing the name, email address, or phone number you are searching for into the field at the top of the list.



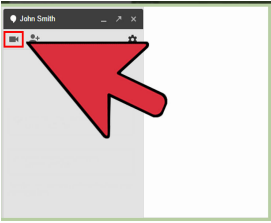
Google Hangout Step 4

- ▶ **Choose your Hangout format.** You are given the option to start either a video or a text Hangout.
 - ▶ You can turn a text chat into a video chat at any time.




Google Hangout Step 5



- ▶ **Video Chat:** Click the video camera button in the top of the chat box. The other person will receive a notification that you are attempting to start a video chat.
 - ▶ Video chat on both the computer and mobile devices
 - ▶ Video chats do not require that both users have a camera. You can video chat with a camera on one end and a microphone on the other, or just camera and text.



Google Hangout Screen Share


- ▶ You can use Hangouts to share a display of your screen.
 - ▶ Click the Screenshare button in the left menu.
 - ▶ You can share a specific window, or you can share your entire display.
 - ▶ This can be very useful if you are trying to troubleshoot a program with someone more experienced, or want to share something in another program with everyone in the chat.



Methods of Communication

- ▶ How are videos sent?
 - ▶ Cloud: Dropbox, Google Drive
 - ▶ Double check to ensure entire video is uploaded before sharing.
 - ▶ Snail Mail: USB drive or DVD
- ▶ How is oral feedback given?
 - ▶ Phone or video conference
 - ▶ Google Hangout, Skype, VSee
 - ▶ Typed feedback report usually emailed before conference





How to Facilitate Timely Feedback


- ▶ Communicate, communicate, communicate!
- ▶ Teachers should upload their video that evening.
 - ▶ Have lesson files sent within 24-48 hours of filming.
 - ▶ Scan lesson materials as a PDF (preferred) or take a photo
- ▶ From the time I receive the video **and** supporting materials, I aim to have the observation completed and phone conference within 24-48 hours.





Disadvantages



1. The teacher needs to be organized and have some tech savvy, or be **motivated** to learn.
 - ▶ Make friends with a techie.
2. Audio-visual glitches
 - ▶ iPad often does not pick up the student's voice well.
3. Missing Pieces:
 - ▶ I will not watch a video until all lesson materials have been sent.
4. You cannot look through a teacher's binder.





Disadvantages

5. Harder to understand school culture and connect with school administration.
 - ▶ Videos can't take the place of being in a school all day, month after month.
 - ▶ Videos can't take the place of being in the same room with the student if the trainee wants/needs assistance during the lesson.





Recommendations for the Classroom Educator

If the teacher is delivering whole group instruction:

1. The teacher needs someone else to record the lesson who can move around the classroom.
2. Oral reading should be done separately in a quiet space with 1-2 students to minimize background noise.





Disadvantages with Classroom Educator



1. It is harder to see classroom configuration and additional classroom resources the teacher may not be utilizing in his/her room.
2. Easier to miss a student who needs more differentiated attention.




Advantages

1. You can stop and replay parts of the lesson.
2. A sensitive student who doesn't want to be observed
3. No scheduling difficulties
 - ▶ Some classroom educators divide their lesson into 2 parts across morning and afternoon or even two days.

Advantages

4. Trainees have the opportunity to watch themselves teach
5. Less mileage, saves gas and CO2 omissions
6. Easy to create a library of showcase lessons
7. Greater reach!
- 8. Greater reach!**

Greater Reach!
 We can be just an internet connection away from a trainee and his or her dyslexic student.



Additional Advantage for training Fellows

► If you have a Fellow in Training, video observations provide the perfect opportunity to view a lesson together.




Greater Reach!



1. For all of the trainees who receive long-distance mentorship, the alternative is NOTHING.
2. Provides access to underserved populations
3. Decreases cost to schools and teachers
4. Many of our best trainees have had only had long-distance observations
 - The quality of instruction delivered by our long-distance trainees is just as effective and true to our OG principles



Concluding Recommendations

1. During the course: Have all trainees fill out an audio-visual consent form.
 - All teachers are expected to be prepared for a video observation in case of bad weather, injury, or emergencies.




Concluding Recommendations

2. Before the 1st observation: Trainees need to check sound and ensure the entire lesson is recorded.

- ▶ Trainees should practice filming to check sound and camera placement.

-SOUND-CHECK 

- ▶ Before I watch a video, I check the total time.



 

Concluding Recommendations

3. Do not become their IT specialist.

- ▶ Send them to their school's IT specialist, Google or YouTube.
- ▶ Make friends with a techie.
- ▶ The first time is the hardest.



Concluding Recommendations

4. Be strict on what is sent in AND time frames:

- ▶ If you observe a video without all the materials, you sent a bad precedent, and the teachers will forget what needs to be sent in.

5. Make a tentative observation schedule.

6. Frequent reminders to avoid long gaps between observations.

Just a friendly reminder...


Technology Trends

▶ Tele-health

- ▶ If we can deliver medical care through technology, why not OG supervision?



▶ This is not the future, this is now.



Every child has the right to the very best literacy instruction.

- ▶ Every educator who teaches children with dyslexia (or any children how to read) should have access to high quality mentorship from a Fellow.
- ▶ Long-distance mentorship helps decrease achievement gaps, by allowing access to high quality, expert mentorship in rural, hard to reach areas.



Thank you! Questions?

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www.sterncenter.org