

The conference proposal for the Spokane Regional ESL Conference was the first proposal I have submitted for a professional conference. The proposal was completed to fill a requirement for the Professional Seminar course, because unfortunately, I will be out of the country for any upcoming conferences. For this reason, it is unlikely that I would have been able to present at the conference if my proposal had been accepted. However, I have gained the confidence and experience to submit more proposals in the future.

The conference presentation idea that I selected is an analysis of the struggles that EFL teachers might encounter while abroad and suggestions to help overcome some of those issues. The presentation focuses on my personal experience as a Peace Corps volunteer serving in Ecuador. It also examines how teacher-training programs at universities can better prepare and support new teachers. Although this presentation specifically looks at the Peace Corps Master's International (PCMI) program at Gonzaga University and my Peace Corps service in Ecuador, much of the information and suggestions can be applied to any new teacher about to work in an EFL setting.

There are many reasons for why I chose this particular topic. For one, it offered me an opportunity to share my experience as a Peace Corps volunteer. Also, the majority of my teaching background has been in an EFL setting and therefore, I felt more confident presenting about my own personal experience. The information in the presentation is based on both my Peace Corps service and previous research that I conducted at Gonzaga University.

This presentation is a continuation of my action research project from my first semester in the PCMI program at Gonzaga. As a new student, I was unsure of what topic to choose for my final project and decided to investigate how the PCMI program prepares students for their service in hopes that I might learn more about what to expect from my two years abroad. I found that many of the recommendations that the PCMI students made in a survey aligned with my own personal observations. My hope with the presentation is that PCMI students and new teachers working in an EFL setting can have an idea of what to expect during their time abroad.

The process for submitting the proposal was not as complicated as I had originally imagined. One of the most difficult aspects was deciding on a topic to present. Once I had selected a topic, the questions were relatively straightforward and easy to answer. However, I did

find it challenging to meet the word limit requirements. Every word had to be carefully selected in the session summary in order to provide all of the necessary information but still stay within the limits of the proposal requirements.

Recently I heard that my proposal was put on the waitlist for the Spokane Regional ESL Conference. While it is disappointing that it was not accepted, I would not have been able to attend if it had been selected. With the experience that I gained from this assignment, I plan to continue submitting proposals on different topics that I find relevant to the field. I believe that contributing to the English language field is an important aspect of professional development.