

LVWC Student & Tutor News

Winter 2023

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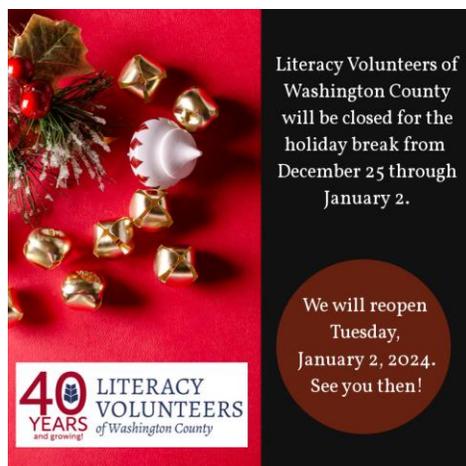
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Holiday Break



Literacy Volunteers of Washington County will be closed for the holiday break December 25, 2023 through January 1, 2024. We will be back in the office Tuesday, January 2, 2024.



Literacy Volunteers of Washington County

7 Elm Street

P.O. Box 245

Westerly, RI 02891

401-596-9411

www.literacywashingtoncounty.org

Join us!



Literacy Specialist
Contact Information

Barbara Heuer
Monday-Tuesday
9:30am-12:30pm
lvwcbhstaff@gmail.com

Theresa Gregal
Monday-Thursday
9:00am-1:00pm
lvwctgstaff@gmail.com

401-596-9411

Executive Director
Mary Carol Kendzia
lvwcexedir@gmail.com

Marketing Associate
Jess Wick
lvwcmarketingassociate@gmail.com

Student Spotlight Yamila Garcia

In June 2019, Yamila joined our Mystic-Noank Library conversation class led by our volunteer tutor Kathy Busse. During the pandemic, she continued with the class online until it was safe to be in person again.

Yamila became the Bob Richins Scholarship winner in 2021 which was put to good use as she continued her undergraduate education.



Left to right: Kathy Busse, Manar Alakad, Yamila N. Garcia (Bob Richins Scholarship winner 2021), and Mary Carol Kendzia.

"Thanks for this and your support during my journey here."

Yamila

Yamila was just admitted to a graduate certificate program in Remote Sensing & Geospatial Data Analytics, and she is also applying for a master's degree in Computer Science at UConn to start in Spring 2024. She has been interning at the Eversource Energy Center at UConn since the Summer of 2022 and will stay doing research with them for her master's. This is a picture of a poster presentation at the Innovation Partnership Building in Storrs, CT. This project was about correcting cloud cover forecasts using all-sky camera data to improve the prediction of how much power the panels could produce.



Yamila N. Garcia with her presentation at the Innovation Partnership Building at the UConn Tech Park.

Announcements & Events

Closed December 25, 2023-January 1, 2024
(Holiday Break)

Open Tuesday, January 2, 2024

URI Conversation Class will not meet December 25, 2023 through January 15, 2024 and will resume January 22, 2024.

LVWC Conversation classes will not meet December 26 & 27, 2023.



We are here to help!

**Mary Carol, Theresa,
Barbara and Jess**

Tutors, don't forget to submit those hours.

7 Elm St.
P.O. Box 245
Westerly, RI 02891
(401) 596-9411

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LITERACY VOLUNTEERS
of Washington County

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Tutors

[Click here to become a tutor!](#)

Tutor Handbook

Browse through our Tutor Handbook to learn more about being a tutor for LVWC

Off-Site Tutor Reporting Form

Please report your hours with this online form if you do not meet at the literacy center in Westerly or if you do not use the LVWC Zoom account. This information is very important. Thanks you.

* Indicates required question

Email *

Your email

Tutor Name *

Your answer

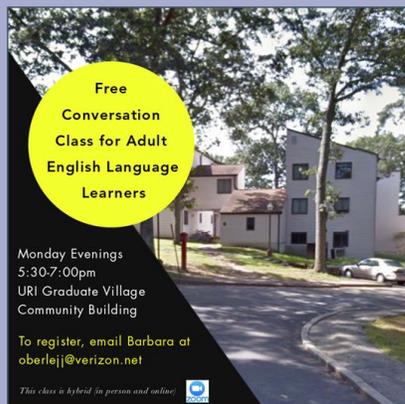
If you and your student do not meet at the LVWC office and sign in, please remember to fill out the Off-Site Tutor Reporting Form.

You may have noticed it looks a little different as it is now a Google Form. This helps us collect better information, and it enables us to send you a copy of what you have submitted to help you keep track.

Current Classes

These classes are for adult English language learners.

Visit www.literacywashingtoncounty.org/classes-gatherings for current offerings.



URI Graduate Village Conversation

Type: Conversation Class—HYBRID (in person and Zoom)

When: Mondays 5:30-7:00pm

Where: URI Graduate Village Community Center, 2900 Kingstown Rd, Kingston, RI 02881

Email: Barbara at oberlejj@verizon.net to register

LVWC Center

Type: Conversation Class—IN PERSON

When: Tuesdays & Wednesdays, 11:00am-12:00pm

Where: 7 Elm Street (Christ Church) Westerly, RI at the LVWC Center

All levels welcome—No registration required



Conversation Classes

for adult English language learners
Tuesdays & Wednesdays

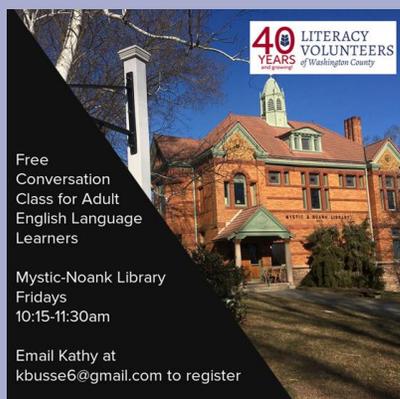
11:00am-12:00pm



All levels
no registration required
7 Elm Street, Westerly,
RI 02891



See our website for more information
www.literacywashingtoncounty.org/classes-gatherings



Mystic-Noank Conversation

Type: Conversation Class—IN PERSON

When: Fridays from 10:15-11:30am

Where: Mystic-Noank Library, 40 Library St, Mystic, CT 06355

Email: Kathy at kbusse6@gmail.com to register

Tutor Tips

By Barbara Heuer

An education isn't how much you have committed to memory, or even how much you know. It's being able to differentiate between what you know and what you don't. Anatole France

Last week, one of our students came in with an official looking document she had received in the mail. The letter demanded payment for an overdue insurance premium. She was understandably 1) confused because she did not recognize the insurance company name, and 2) intimidated because the letter looked like a legal document with a deadline threatening her.

Luckily, after some discussion, we were able to reassure her that she did not need to pay anybody anything or even respond. This was a "phishing" letter, playing on her fears and perhaps lack of English language fluency. We are frequently warned about falling for these scams or fraudulent practice of looking for monies illegally from unsuspecting persons by misrepresenting their cause.

An important corollary to your tutoring is fostering critical thinking skills to deal with situations such as above. Equipping adults with the English language skills to navigate and prosper in the US is what we at LVWC are all about...and what you are doing in small steps when you meet with your students.

One lengthy definition of critical thinking is the ability to question, acknowledge and test assumptions; to recognize ambiguity; to

examine, interpret, evaluate, reason and reflect; to make informed judgments and decisions; and to clarify, articulate and justify positions (Hullfish + Smith, 1961) Whew! That's a tall order for anyone, but especially for those trying to understand, read or speak our idiomatic and unruly English language. So, let's use a simpler definition that encourages evaluation, depth and reason in our thinking.

You are the best judge of when it is appropriate to encourage your student to think further. But even at a beginner's level, you can ask questions. Open ended questions rather than yes/no ones. My go-to strategy in helping students think critically is using one or more of the reporter's question words: What? Who? Where? When? How? and Why? and giving them time to respond. What does this vocabulary word mean to you? Who is the source of this website? When was this written, etc.

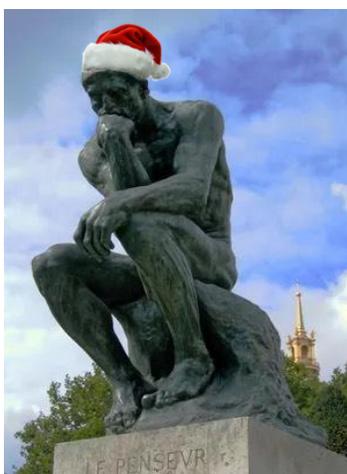
Asking questions of your students and hearing their responses helps you both: they practice putting their thoughts into English and you learn what and how much they understand.

Make it a habit, even with beginning students, to identify what it is your session is about and what materials you are using. Take a minute to examine/answer the question words above. Depending on the subject matter and your student's fluency, your questions can be simplified and/or abbreviated. You are helping learners orient themselves and develop the crucial habit of critical thinking.

We'd love to hear your suggestions or success stories or lessons learned, etc. As always, thank you for your good work.

May your winter be warm and bright!

Barbara 😊



LVWC Holiday Party 2023!







Tutor Gatherings Coming Up This Winter

January 29 at LVWC, 11:30am-12:30pm

February 26 at the Kingston Free Library, 11:30am-12:30pm