



WITESOL Conference November 2025

»Panel Discussion«
**How students and teachers
find success in the classroom**

Panel Discussion: Opening Remarks

Too often, we talk about the best strategies, ways, instructional activities, and modifications on how to get students to improve their language skills; to learn the academic language so they can be successful in their classes; to learn the social language so they can communicate with their peers, etc. But we almost never ask students what works and what doesn't work for them; we use the strategies that we were taught and we think those would work but that's not always the case. Some strategies work for students, but others don't. For that purpose, we invited a group of students who have been in the US for less than 7 years, who have learned English as a second language, and have passed the ACCESS test to share their experience with learning English and what helped them be successful. These students are representing the Verona Area High School and all of them were a part of the newcomer programming, some exited only a couple of years ago.

Panel Moderator



Natalija Krsteva

I have worked at Verona Area High School since 2020 as a Bilingual Resource Teacher. I teach English as a Second Language class and Intro to US Schools and Culture for newcomers. Over the years, I have seen many students struggle with advancing their language skills and not succeeding on the ACCESS test, but I have also noticed a small group of students who have shown tremendous growth in their language levels even when they were pretty new to the country. I hope the voices of the students in the panel today brings understanding how students succeed in the classroom and how can teachers support students.

Student Participants



Sofia



Valerie



Masha



Sofia



Thank you!

Questions?

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