

Improving Language Learning: Styles- and Strategies-Based Instruction

July 21–25, 2008

Enhancing students' ability to learn a foreign/second language through styles- and strategies-based instruction (SSBI) is the focus of this institute. SSBI is a learner-focused approach to teaching that enables students to become more effective and efficient foreign language learners by helping them understand and make the most of their own learning styles and strategies.



Martha Nyikos and Andrew D. Cohen

Participants will create materials and lessons and explore ways to incorporate strategies into their own language curricula. During the institute, participants will have an opportunity to apply SSBI according to their own interests—whether directly for classroom instruction, conducting SSBI workshops for teachers, or doing SSBI research. This institute draws extensively from the CARLA publication, *Styles-and Strategies-Based Instruction: A Teachers' Guide*.

In this highly interactive course, you will:

- Review and discuss learning style and language strategy classifications;
- Consider the benefits and limitations of currently available style and strategy measures;
- Apply style and strategy theory to specific classroom tasks and lessons;
- Gain a deeper awareness of your own strengths both as a learner and as a teacher; and
- Design your own SSBI project (e.g., a set of classroom activities, a plan for conducting SSBI workshops, or a research project).

Program Schedule (9 a.m.–4 p.m.)

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| Day 1 | • Defining and Working with Styles and Strategies
• Resolving Style/Strategy Conflicts |
| Day 2 | • Assessment of Styles and Strategies
• Intersection of Style, Strategy, and Task
• Hands-On SSBI Activities |
| Day 3 | • Frameworks for SSBI
• Teaching vs. Learning Strategies
• Teacher and Student Roles |
| Day 4 | • Motivation for Language Learning
• Creating SSBI Lesson Plans
• More Hands-On SSBI Activities
• Review of SSBI Research and Implications |
| Day 5 | • Group Presentations of SSBI Lessons and Project Design
• Style/Strategy Review and Debate
• Goal-Setting for the Future |

Presenters

Martha Nyikos, professor at Indiana University, has worked for many years on issues related to teacher professional development and language-learning strategies. She has published on large-scale research she has done with Rebecca Oxford on learning strategies used by language students.

Andrew D. Cohen is professor of applied linguistics in the English as a Second Language program at the University of Minnesota. He has published extensively in the field of learning strategies and is the lead author of the guide on strategies used for this course. He will be a guest presenter during the institute.

This institute is designed for K-16 ESL and foreign language teachers, administrators, curriculum coordinators, teacher educators, and researchers.