

# REEP ESL Curriculum for Adults

## INITIAL AND FINAL COMPOSITIONS

**LEVEL:** INTERMEDIATE and higher

**Suggested Instructional Steps:** Learners read samples written by other learners. Then they answer questions and write a similar composition about their experiences learning English and their needs and/or progress toward goals. Teachers use the information to learn about students' needs and tailor instruction to learner needs.

### **Example 1:** Initial (Feliciano's Story)

When I came to the U.S.A., it was so difficult for me because I did not even know a word of English. When I decided to come to school, my dream was to learn how to read in English. I expected to learn how to speak more clear and perfect.

Before I came to class, I could not read in English. But now I'm able to read many things.

Conversation and writing is the biggest problem that I have and that I still need to fix.

1. What did Feliciano want to learn in English class?
2. What does Feliciano still need to learn?
3. Write a story about YOU. Tell what was difficult for you about English. What do you still need to learn?

### **Example 2:** Final (Omar's Story)

Actually, in my country, Colombia, I used to read and translate from English into Spanish. But, I was not able to communicate in English. When I came to the U.S.A., I had only a little knowledge of English so that it did not help me too much. In fact, whenever I tried to communicate with Americans, I got stuck. It was not easy because I could not either understand or speak. What made me come to the U.S.A. and learn English was basically professional purposes.

So far, I have taken three courses at Wilson School and I have learned a lot of things during these courses. I have improved my listening, speaking and writing. I think Wilson School has a wonderful learning center and also great teachers.

I'd like to make some suggestions. I think REEP should try to teach more grammar. Besides that, I think the program should be focused on more academic English instead of Survival English. I think all the students should take tests all the time in order to follow the students' improvements.

1. Why did Omar need to study English?
2. What has Omar learned at Wilson School?
3. What does Omar think the school should focus on?
4. Write a story about YOU. Tell why you need to study English. What do you think about the program at Wilson School?