

## Nicholas Catechis

**Your favourite website:** <http://www.tesol.org/> The TESOL website has such a wealth of information that I find myself visiting it frequently. Whether it is featured publications like the TESOL Journal and Quarterly or just the Latest News, this is one of my “go to” websites.

**A gadget you can't live without:** While I still consider myself a bit old-fashioned and prefer to read articles and books in print, my laptop has become an important part of my identity. It not only stores a lot of my work that I have accumulated throughout the years but also helps me brainstorm and organize new ideas and lessons.

**Something you'd never throw away:** I have a “pop-up post-it note holder” that I purchased almost three decades ago for my teacher’s desk. Every time I have changed job positions and moved across countries, I have always taken this object with me to always remind me of my first teaching job.

**Who or what inspires you?** Teachers worldwide! I consider myself lucky that for the past decade I have worked as a professional developer with teachers for English learners. After every institute that I facilitate, I always become a little smarter because of my interactions with my participants.

**Useful teaching tool:** Film has become a tool that I have incorporated into many of my lessons. Especially, for history lessons where many times we have to transport students’ minds back to a time long ago. So, I have found that showing brief clips that contextualize the historical period always helps students navigate the lesson more successfully.

**Your favourite lesson:** I have a few favourite lessons, one of which I will be presenting at the convention. I like the lesson for two reasons. First, because it enhances teacher understanding of pedagogical strategies that integrate visual information (e.g. maps) with other information in print. Second, it includes collaborative structures that engage students to read, gather, discuss, organize, synthesize, and present information from print and visual texts.

**Your favourite bit about your talk:** I think teachers will enjoy my presentation because first they will have the chance to engage as students so that they can understand the language and structures involved in the lesson. Then based on this engagement they will be able to reflect on the lesson so that they can analyse the purpose and design.

**A lesson you've learnt while teaching:** Having taught all age groups and proficiency levels in both the Americas and in Europe, the most significant lesson that I have learned is how important it is to create a culture of trust and learning in classrooms and schools. Once that is established, the potential of students can be fully developed.