

ESL Professional Development...

February is an important month in highlighting the contributions of many famous Black Americans. There are many resources available, but which resources are best suited to your multilevel classrooms? Have you thought about how to prompt discussions around controversial topics for your beginner/early literacy students? This is likely your first step, as many of our students need appropriate scaffolding to be able to engage in discussions around these important topics. Second-language researchers have examined the relationship between oral language and literacy and found that they are interdependent. Strong oral language skills pave the way for the development of literacy in a second language (Bernhardt & Kamil, 1995; Carrell, 1991). See below for a few activities to spark our thinking around how we can engage our learners in these important topics.

I have... 10 minutes

In 10 minutes...

Begin with a lesson on Martin Luther King Jr., on ELCivics.com. You can present pictures and scaffold the more complex questions, by using the [early production question list](#) from Jayme Adelson Goldstein's resources. These question frames are geared towards ELP Level 1 and 2 students. Use the target words that will assist your students in answering the quiz questions at the end.

I have 30 minutes

In 30 minutes...

Use the [pre- and post-activities](#) for the Change Agent's new issue, "We Take Action" to align pre- and post-questions to early production students. Revising these questions for your students and grouping them can provide support by allowing a homogenous conversation. For example, a complex question such as "Discuss the definition of flexibility and adaptability" could be changed to "Is _____ an example of flexibility/adaptability?" Once groups have discussed questions at their level, they could come back and facilitate a discussion of the more complex answers.

I have... 1 hour

In 1 hour...

Download the Center for Applied Linguistic (CAL) issue of [Using Oral Language Skills to Build on the Emerging Literacy of Adult English Learners](#) and read why it is important to strategically think about how to promote oral language skills with beginner/pre-literacy students.

- [Additional Resources for Black History Month](#)

I have... multiple hours

If you have more time...

- Thinking about how to promote active discussions in your beginner classrooms? Register for [Meeting the Language Needs of Today's Adult English Language Learners: Critical Thinking for English Language Acquisition \(ESL Pro\)](#), a self-paced course through LINCS designed to provide you with the skills and scaffolding that are needed to engage your students in academic vocabulary during active discussions.
- [Literacy Minnesota PD sessions](#) including many beginner ESL trainings
- [Register](#) for ESL DAY (Part II) on March 1

Have questions, need assistance, or for more information contact Dalia Assem, ESL Consultant, at assem@edadvance.org.