

Exercise #3

The Perfect Language Learning Tool

In this group exercise you will invent the perfect language learning tool.

1. In groups of four, invent a student, based on a typical customer at your library, and name him or her (i.e., Jane Q Public). Be specific: What is her background? What is her profession? How old is she? How well does she speak and understand English? What is her literacy level in her native language and in English?

2. Imagine this person coming in to the library and asking for help with a specific aspect of language learning (pronunciation, citizenship, grammar, etc). Make a list of possible topics.

3. Make a list of formats and decide which individual format or which group of formats would make the “perfect” language learning tool for your customer and her particular concern. (In other words, Jane, who is a Persian-speaking waitress, is having trouble making herself understood at work, both in writing and speaking. What is the best way for her to improve her communication skills: a cd for pronunciation, a video on vocational ESL, a book on American handwriting, etc,?)