



# The Gwangju Communicator

Newsletter of the Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter of Korea TESOL

October 2015

## Story Writing as a Path to Academic Writing

By Bryan Hale

Academic writing can be a frustrating exercise in English language classes, for students and for teachers. Students might not be very personally invested, even if teachers have encouraged them to write about topics that interest them and to write with a personal voice. Different cultural approaches to writing and rhetoric can lead to miscommunication rather than illuminating exchanges. It's easy for students and teachers to retreat into "just because": "But teacher, there's nothing more to write. The reason is, just because!" "You have to explain this more, the way I'm telling you to explain it more, just because!"

Story writing can offer an alternative and maybe more productive path into academic writing. Story writing can help students to feel ownership of writing and to be more engaged with the content of their writing. Story writing can help students to think consciously about structure and how to build cohesive, coherent texts in English. Story writing offers lots of opportunities for purposeful and creative revision. And story writing can encourage more authentic negotiation and exchange between students and teachers.

In this workshop, we will try some creative writing activities that I have found useful with students from the higher elementary school grades and up. Together, we will write some (little) stories ourselves and also think about what students might make of the processes we try, and how these writing processes might build towards academic writing. Participants

will have an opportunity to reflect on the purposes of teaching writing in English language classes, and to get some activity ideas to use in class.

### PRESENTER BIOGRAPHY

Bryan Hale is a teacher from Australia who has been in Korea since 2011. Bryan currently teaches conversation and writing to elementary and middle school students at Sunkyung Academy in Gwangju.



He has experience teaching students in Korea of all ages, from very young to adult. Bryan is currently serving as the Membership Coordinator for the Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter and as the Co-facilitator for the Gwangju-Jeonnam KOTESOL Reflective Practice SIG (Special

Interest Group). He presented at the KOTESOL International Conference in Seoul recently. Email: [bryan.english.teacher@gmail.com](mailto:bryan.english.teacher@gmail.com)

*(Bryan will be speaking on the use of story writing in the EFL classroom at the October 17th Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter meeting at Gwangju Natl. University of Education.)*

## ■ Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter Officers: 2014-15

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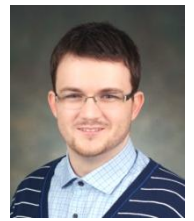
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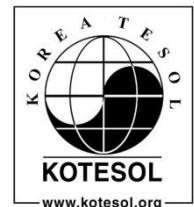


### Facebook

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## ■ Joining Korea TESOL

**Who May Join:** English teachers of any level or nationality are eligible to join KOTESOL. We welcome native and non-native speakers teaching at primary schools, secondary schools, language institutes, colleges and universities, and other organizations. University students may join as student members.

### What Memberships Types Are Available?

- **Regular 1-Year Membership:** 50,000 won.
- **Lifetime Membership:** 500,000 won. Student and International Membership options are also available.

**How to Join:** Apply by using the online membership form at <http://www.koreatesol.org/>. On the front page, click on “Join KOTESOL” in the menu, and follow the directions.

Alternately, paper membership application and renewal forms are available at Chapter meetings for those who prefer making a hard-copy application with Chapter assistance.

### Membership payment may be made by:

- Bank transfer to **KOTESOL:** Korea Exchange Bank account number 630-006952-841
- Payment in cash to the Chapter Membership Officer at a Chapter Meeting

## KOTESOL International Conference Share: Insights, Impressions, Information, and Inquiries

The International Conference (IC) is KOTESOL's biggest event of the year, and Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter participation was significant. Chapter members played major roles on the IC Committee, others presented at the IC, and still others participated as attendees.

In this session, those who participated in the conference will be sharing their impressions of the conference, what they learned, and what they liked. Those working behind the scenes can add their perspective on how the conference is organized and how it operates. Those who were not able to attend can ask any questions they have and make their own contributions.

Those on the Conference Committee were Lindsay Herron, Dave Shaffer, Ynell Lumantao, Bill Mulligan, Tyson Vieira, Seongsuk Yun, Gene

Shaffer, and Yeon-seong Park. Presenting at the IC were Jocelyn Wright, Bryan Hale, Dave Shaffer, and Lindsay Herron (Friday Workshops). Trevor Homeniuk and several other Chapter members were also at the conference over the weekend.

This year's conference consisted of four day-long strands of pre-conference workshops on Friday (Oct. 9th): (1) Media and Technology, (2) Professional Development, (3) Teaching and Learning, (4) Young Learners and Teens. This was followed by the two-day main conference (Oct. 10th and 11th) with plenary speakers Chuck Sandy and Robert S. Murphy speaking to the conference theme of *Transitions in Education – Transitions in ELT*.

*(Share your impressions and questions to add to the discussion at the October 17th Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter meeting.)*

In the 2015

### KOTESOL National Elections

held at the October 10-11  
International Conference

## Lindsay Herron

was elected

## National President

for 2015-17.



## Gwangju-Jeonnam KOTESOL October Chapter Meeting

- Time: Saturday, October 17, 2015, 1:45–5:00 p.m.
- Place: Gwangju Natl. University of Ed., Teacher Training Bldg., Room 811 (1<sup>st</sup> Floor)

### ■ Schedule

#### Chapter Meeting: Main Session

**1:45 pm:** Sign-in and Meet-and-Greet (Admission is free. Future membership is welcomed.)

**2:00 – 2:50 pm: PRESENTATION**  
*Story Writing as a Path to Academic Writing*  
 Bryan Hale (Sunkyung Academy, Gwangju)

**2:50 – 3:10 pm:** Refreshment Break

**3:10 – 4:10 pm: DISCUSSION AND Q&A**  
 KOTESOL International Conference Share  
 Impressions, insights, information, and inquiries shared by organizers, presenters, attendees and those unable to attend.

**4:20 – 5:00 pm: SwapShop – Halloween Theme**  
 Everyone is encouraged to Share a Halloween-related activity with the group. Also welcome are your other Teaching Ideas, Classroom Activities, Games, Books, or other Teaching Wisdom. (Handouts welcomed.)

**4:45 pm:** Announcements / Drawing for Door Prizes / Closing

About 5:45 pm: After-meeting dinner at The First Alleyway

## Upcoming Chapter Events

**October 18, 2015 (Sunday).**  
**GIC Day (Gwangju International Community).**  
 Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter Booth  
 Asia Culture Complex, 5.18 Plaza

**November 21, 2015. Monthly Chapter Meeting**  
*Short Stories and L2 Learners*  
 Tyson Vieira (Kyungnam University, Changwon)  
 Chapter Elections

**December 12, 2015. Monthly Chapter Meeting & End-of-Year Dinner**

## Upcoming KOTESOL Events

**November 8, 2015.**  
**Korea TESOL Leadership Retreat**  
 Venue: To Be Announced

**Reflective Practice SIG Morning Meeting**  
 Saturday, October 17, 2015  
 Aldersgate Café, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm  
***Fear and Anxiety in the Classroom***  
 Bryan Hale facilitating