



How to Get Started: The AKC ESL Outreach Program

1. Contact your local community colleges, community organizations, and churches that offer adult ESL classes. See the Resources for ESL Outreach program that provides links to find local community colleges and churches that offer ESL classes. Please also see the Communication Template for a sample email.
2. In your email, supply the links to our AKC ESL lesson plans (insert links here).
3. If the organization agrees to have you or your AKC Canine Ambassador visit with a dog, follow up with the organizer two weeks ahead of your scheduled visit (see Communication Template).
4. Keep in mind that students who are learning English are coming from a variety of cultures with diverse cultural expectations. Be open-minded and patient. Some additional resources about common cultural differences and how to embrace cultural diversity can be found here:

<https://www.teachers.ab.ca/SiteCollectionDocuments/ATA/Publications/Specialist-Councils/ESL-3-6%20Moving%20Toward%20Cultural%20Responsiveness.pdf>

And <https://www.edutopia.org/discussion/being-mindful-cultural-differences>

5. You may want to bring along information about your AKC club, in case the students or teacher are interested. Contact AKC Public Education at publiced@akc.org for assistance. While not all English Language Learners are native Spanish speakers, many are. If this describes your ELL population, please visit <https://www.akc.org/public-education/resources/informacion-en-espanol/> for AKC resources in Spanish.
6. Your role is to model how to approach an unfamiliar dog, and to engage in conversation with the students who are learning English. This is a great opportunity to talk about your dog's breed and to share information about your club with members of your community.

Email Template for AKC ESL outreach to community colleges or churches:

Dear (insert name) OR To Whom It May Concern (if name unknown):

My name is (insert here) and I am a member (or insert officer info if applicable) of (insert Club name). I am writing to inform you of an AKC outreach program hosted by our club. I would like to set up a time to visit one or more of your ESL classes, to offer students an opportunity to practice ways to approach an unfamiliar dog, and to start up and continue conversations about dogs in English. One of the challenges of working with adult language learners is finding ways to encourage students to participate in conversations. Bringing a dog into the room can ease tensions and provide a natural opportunity for questions and conversation starters. In addition, the AKC provides a series of ESL lesson plans aligned with WIDA standards for English Language Learners ([insert link here](#)).

There is no cost to participate in this program. Please let me know if you are interested in participating in this program or if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

(insert name)