



Teaching Internship in France - Byron

Elaine Well, I'm here at Bon Repos to talk to a young man from America who is on a very interesting internship, I think you could call it, at a school in St Brieuc ... and perhaps you could introduce yourself, and tell us what you're doing ...

Byron Yeah, my name is Byron Schultz and I've come from the United States to assist in English classes here in St Brieuc specifically at two professional high schools for the, the duration of their, their school year and so it's especially focussing on trying to get the students to use their oral skills in English and to get them speaking in a more natural context ... because as a native speaker it's a little more genuine, hopefully their reactions can be a little more genuine, that's kind of the goal ... so I've just started, I've been here for about a month teaching, and it's been going pretty well and we'll see hopefully, today, we can get the students to speak some English as we go along ...

Elaine So what age groups are you particularly involved with?

Byron It's especially the leaver years of the high school, so it's terminale and première, students from 16 and 18 or so , especially the, the group I'm working with ...

Elaine And what particular, or are there any particular difficulties you've had to confront and try to work around?

Byron I think one difficulty is the manner in which language is taught in France and in the United States it's a little different. Maybe not so much the methods, but the way that behaviour is. It's a lot more common for there to be a lot of chatter and side-conversations going on while the teacher's talking, and I'm not used to that, and so the first kind of challenge is figuring out where do I draw the line with what kind of behaviour I want in class and like what's the most conducive to learning with my teaching style which not the same teaching style that they're used to ...

Elaine So when you're in the classroom, you're actually working with their English teacher ...

Byron In some classes, I'll be in the same room with the English teacher and we'll, we'll, we'll do the class together and maybe they'll, they'll use me to do, um, an oral activity during class, or to read

something to do with some comprehension. But there are more often the case that I'll have my own room and I'll have half the class with me on their own and we'll look at like maybe a video or something, and we'll talk about the video or do like roll-play and stuff like that, you know, so it's kind of fun, a little more independence ...

Elaine What ideas would you like to see put to use?

Byron Creativity and personal experience can be used, it's really interesting because, for example, if I, if you ask if you had any super power, what would it be and what would you do with it ... they kind of can be creative and it becomes self-perpetuating sometimes, if they kind of take pride in what their imagination can do and then that motivates them to speak and other than that, music is really, I think music is really useful (laugh!), and so hopefully I can start to use more of that ... but I'm learning a lot from the way the teachers are doing things here in France too, you know, it's been really nice to, to be here in the same classroom as well as be independent, 'cos I get to learn what they do when I'm in their class and then try to use some of that when I'm on my own ...

Elaine So, when you go back to, is it Minnesota?

Byron Yeah, that's right ...

Elaine ... Minnesota, what will you be doing there? Will you be teaching?

Byron I don't know yet, what I want to do, my goal now, which might change, is to do environmental education, so trying to educate, probably the next generations, younger, younger folks about environmental issues ...

Elaine Well, thank you very much, Byron, thank you for your time, I've enjoyed it ... thank you ...

Byron Thanks a lot ...

