



TEACHERS OF ENGLISH  
AS A SECOND LANGUAGE  
ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO

## MATTE ARTICLE #2 2015

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### WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE 3Rs?

For those who went to school in pre-internet days, the “3Rs” – Reading, (w)Riting and (a)Rithmetic was the golden rule for teaching and learning. With the lightning speed of technology development and the introduction of the internet into all of our lives today, mention of the 3Rs is but a mere whisper.

In today’s classrooms, and especially those of [Ontario’s ESL \(English as a Second Language\)](#), the 3Rs still exist and are strongly and positively supported by technology. Through the development of what is known as “**Blended Learning**” and the “Flipped Classroom” (another form of Blended Learning), traditional face-to face instruction is integrated with web-based multimedia instruction. Now, by extending the classroom beyond the brick-and-mortar location, teachers have more in-class time to engage students in discussions, projects and clarification of concepts.

In the case of ESL adult learners, blended learning and the flipped classroom methodologies have even more positive outcomes than traditional instruction. And although newcomers to Canada may not have computers in their homes, they all know that being digitally literate is an expected requirement for getting jobs and for their children to succeed in their new environment. Through access to technology in the classroom, other public places or on mobile devices, they can prepare for upcoming lessons online and at their own pace.

Instructors of adult ESL classes throughout Ontario, both new and experienced, were able to gain valuable strategies and tips for managing and integrating digital technology into their classrooms at the TESL Ontario [annual conference](#) held in Toronto November 12-13, 2015. Several presentations were made by teachers who have already embraced blended learning, by administrators and by digital consultants of related technical software programs.

Yes, today the 3Rs are still taught. And technology, wherever and in what form it is available to instructors, is an added valuable tool that makes learning easier, livelier - and way more fun.

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The 43<sup>rd</sup> annual conference of TESL Ontario took place at the Sheraton Centre Toronto, November 12 - 13, 2015 as part of the annual [ESL Week](#) (November 8 – 14), a celebration of ESL education and learning opportunities in Ontario. The conference is amongst the largest of its kind in Canada, hosting more than 700 delegates. [Interactive workshops](#), presentations, [technology labs](#), panel discussions and more are offered to language training professionals from public and private sectors, academics, researchers and government representatives.

[TESL Ontario](#), established in 1972, is a non-profit organization serving the needs of teachers of English as a Second Language. It represents more than 4,600 language training professionals and is instrumental in influencing the success of many thousands of English language learners throughout the province. TESL Ontario's expertise is in teaching, advocacy, accreditation, and professional development.

For more information visit [www.teslontario.org](http://www.teslontario.org) and follow us on

