



Southwest ABLA Resource Center

# Exposure

## Time to Celebrate!

April is a really great month for celebrations. Did you know that April is Guitar Month, Mathematics Education Month, National Grilled Cheese Sandwich Month, National Smile Month and Straw Hat Month?



It is also a month of events that we can acknowledge in our classrooms. The following events occur in April and you'll find explanations and links on page 3 of this issue that will assist in your celebrations!

- April 10-16 National Library Week
- April 14 National Poem in your Pocket Day
- April 14-15 2011 OAACE Conference
- April 15 Tax Day (no explanation needed—but taxes are due 4/18)
- April 22 Earth Day
- April 29 Arbor Day

Enjoy the resources and activities as you and your students work their way through this busy month.

## Eureka! Spring Lesson Plans

Are your students aware that a **system of linear equations** is a collection of two or more linear equations that are being solved simultaneously and involve the same set of variables?

$$\begin{aligned} 3x + 2y - z &= 1 \\ 2x - 2y + 4z &= -2 \\ -x + \frac{1}{2}y - z &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

If they look puzzled when you ask this question, you are in luck because from April to August 2011, the **Eureka! Lesson Plan of the Month** will focus on *Systems of Linear Equations*.

These five lessons on linear algebra are important concepts for your students working on the ABLA Advanced Certificate and play a prominent role in engineering, physics, chemistry, computer science and economics. Excellent lessons to prepare students for their postsecondary experience!

To access these targeted lessons, go to: <http://literacy.kent.edu/eureka/lessonplans/index.html>

April 2011

## Calling all SW Teachers and Instructional Aides



**Survey, Survey, Did you do the survey?**

The Southwest Resource Center has asked all of our teachers and instructional aides to complete a survey which is gathering information about access and use of technology in ABLA classrooms.

The survey will close on April 15. It will take you approximately ten minutes to complete. The more information we have, the better we can meet your technology wishes and needs!

Access the survey at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SWTeacherTech>

## National Library Week



National Library Week will be observed April 10-16, 2011, with the theme, "Create your own story @ your library®." Author John Grisham is the featured spokesperson for this year.

First sponsored in 1958, National Library Week is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries across the country each April. It is a time to celebrate the contributions of our nation's libraries and librarians and to promote library use and support. All types of libraries - school, public, academic and special - participate. To learn more, visit [www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org).

## National Poetry Month



Inaugurated by the Academy of American Poets in 1996, National Poetry Month is now held every April, when publishers, booksellers, literary organizations, libraries, schools and poets around the country band together to celebrate poetry and its vital place in American culture. Thousands of businesses and non-profit organizations participate through readings, festivals, book displays, workshops, and other events.

## National Poem in Your Pocket Day on April 14th



The idea is simple: select a poem you love during National Poetry Month then carry it with you to share with co-workers, family, and friends.

See a sample lesson from Read Write Think--A poem of possibilities—  
<http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/poem-possibilities-thinking-about-943.html>



Marking its 41st anniversary on April 22, 2011, Earth Day will be celebrated by millions around the world. Use the following link to find a resource guide for activities: <http://earthday.envirolink.org/guide2.html>. Try out the Earth Day Math Quiz:

1. The average American uses 159 gallons of water per day. The average person in half of the rest of the world uses 25 gallons per day. What percent more does the average American use?  
A. 636% B. 5.36% C. 536% D. 6.36%
2. To produce each week's Sunday newspapers, approximately 500,000 trees must be cut down. Considering that a high density forest has 250 trees per acre, how many acres of forest is that per year?  
A. 26 million B. 104,000 C. 2,000 D. 24,000
3. Some hybrid cars average 41 miles per gallon. If over 10 years you drive an average of 15,000 miles per year, how many gallons of gas will you use less than if you were driving a car which averages 25 miles per gallon?  
A. 3659 B. 146 C. 3634 D. 2341
4. I can personally protect the environment as a math student by:  
A. Using both sides of notebook paper and the clean side of printer paper  
B. Using a refillable lead pencil  
C. Re-using folders from one semester to the next  
D. All of the above

Answers: 1) A 2) B 3) D 4) D

## Arbor Day is April 29



Go to [www.idahoforests.org/arborday.htm#07](http://www.idahoforests.org/arborday.htm#07) for information about Arbor Day including the history and activities for the classroom. It's a good reminder of "going green."



# OAAACE Conference - Navigating Change

**Navigating Change** is the theme of this year's annual OAAACE Conference. Starting on April 14 with a choice of 7 full day sessions and continuing on Friday, the 15<sup>th</sup> with over 50 concurrent sessions, the Conference is shaping up to be a buffet of informational options.

If you are registered and attending with financial support from the RCN, here are some items to remember:

### During the Conference:

- Keep original receipts for food and hotel costs

### After the Conference:

- Go to the online Calendar of Events
- Go to the Individual Professional Development Activity Page
- Complete the approval section in which you identify OAAACE Conference as the activity and enter the exact amount you are requesting as reimbursement. (up to \$ 135.00 is available IF you asked for that support prior to the Conference)
- Send your receipts with a note including your name and contact information to:

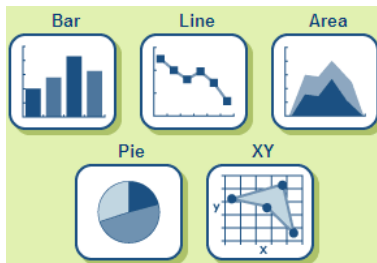
Pam Brenneman  
 Owens Community College  
 30335 Oregon Rd.  
 Perrysburg, Oh 43551



## Math Tip



Graphs are a visual representation of numeric information. The most commonly used graphs are:



With the Create a Graph website, teachers and students can see examples of these graphs and create their own. Entered data can be viewed in all graph formats. These graphs can then be printed or saved for later use.

So gather your data and check out <http://nces.ed.gov/nceskids/Graphing/>

## Reading and Writing Tip



Web English Teacher provides a well of links and downloadable resources to help teachers with reading and writing instruction. You can find rubrics, templates and instructional ideas on the following (plus more):

### For Reading:

- 103 Things to do Before/ During/After Reading
- Building a Case for Clues
- Classroom Strategies
- Comprehension
- Fact or Opinion
- Reading the Movies
- Reading Response Journals
- Skimming and Scanning
- How to Mark a Book
- How to Read Literature like a Professor

### For Writing:

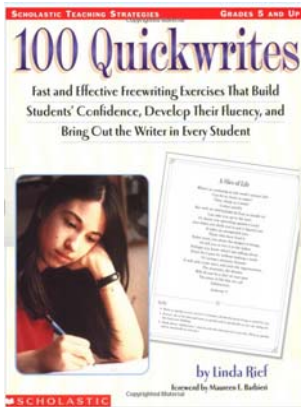
- Persuasive writing
- Book reports
- Business letters and resumes
- Descriptive writing
- Grammar and parts of speech
- Graphic organizers
- Research papers
- Revisions
- Sentence structures
- Writing to a prompt

ESOL information is also included on this site. Check it out at: [www.webenglishteacher.com](http://www.webenglishteacher.com)

# Spotlight on SW Resource Center Library Materials

***100 Quickwrites: Fast and Effective Freewriting Exercises that Build Students' Confidence, Develop Their Fluency, and Bring out the Writer in Every Student***

by Linda Rief,  
Scholastic Publishing



Quickwrites are a powerful and motivating tool to add to your students' writing repertoire – and this is an excellent source you can use to get started. It includes a rich collection of engaging writing that serve as models of good writing. Students can be invited to write two or three minute responses to one of the model pieces. The short time frame and compelling topics inspire students to capture their best thinking on paper. They may surprise themselves with memorable language and insights of their own!

***Recipes for Tired Teachers: Well-Seasoned Activities for the ESOL Classroom***

by Christopher Sion,  
Addison-Wesley Publishing

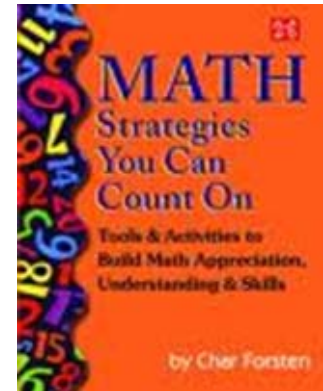


It can be challenging at this time of year to come up with fresh ideas for the classroom. This "recipe" book can help you energize yourself and your students.

Created by more than 40 teachers and tested and refined in their classrooms, the collection contains such exercises as role playing, group dynamics activities, language games, creativity exercises; and ideas for business English, for conversation classes, and for listening, reading and writing.

***Math Strategies You Can Count On : Tools and Activities to Build Math Appreciation, Understanding and Skills***

by Char Forsten,  
Crystal Springs Books



Imagine going through a day without being able to check the time or temperature, sports scores or department store sales. We could not live without math, but your students may not appreciate that fact. Every activity (reproducible) presented in this book helps develop an appreciation of and a deeper understanding of math concepts. The author shows how you can introduce students to increasingly complex math concepts by keeping things based in the concrete and visual, and by guiding students in their discovery of math patterns and relationships.

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## Welcome to our new McGraw-Hill Contemporary Representative: Patrick McNeal



Ohio ABLE has a new sales contact for our McGraw Hill-Contemporary needs. Patrick McNeal covers Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee. He can be reached at 614-477-1706 or [patrick\\_mcneal@mcgraw-hill.com](mailto:patrick_mcneal@mcgraw-hill.com). Feel free to contact Patrick to share about your program and its curriculum needs. The website for McGraw-Hill Contemporary is [www.mheonline.com](http://www.mheonline.com).

## Southwest ABLEResource Center

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800-558-5374 (Ohio only)  
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**Visit us on  
the web:**

[www.sinclair.edu/  
facilities/swable](http://www.sinclair.edu/facilities/swable)

### Staff

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Please contact SWRC with training questions. You can also visit [www.ohioable.org](http://www.ohioable.org) to register for workshops across Ohio and to see what other Resource Centers are offering for Alternative PD.

## FY11 SWRC Professional Development Calendar

Date	Event
4/11	Region 3 Directors' Chat (virtual meeting) <a href="http://connect.sinclair.edu/swrc">http://connect.sinclair.edu/swrc</a>
4/14-15	OACE (Embassy Suites—Dublin) <a href="http://www.oaace.org">www.oaace.org</a>
5/9	Region 3 Directors' Chat (virtual meeting) <a href="http://connect.sinclair.edu/swrc">http://connect.sinclair.edu/swrc</a>
5/13	Ohio ABLEResource Center Writers' Conference
6/3	SWRC Advisory Committee/Directors' Forum (Miami Valley Career & Technical Center)

## Ongoing Alternative PD

There are over 120 self-directed options for Professional Development available on the RCN Calendar of Events. If you are looking to refresh your skills, build new knowledge of topics relevant to ABLEResource Center or complete your FY2011 Professional Development, be sure to review these options which include:



**Book Reviews**



**Webinars**



**Online Courses**



**Media Packages/DVDS**