



Expectations for ELLs

Think about **the Pygmalion effect** as presented earlier in this program, and its effect on English Language Learners. The Pygmalion effect is the effect that teacher expectations have on student performance. Simply put, positive expectations influence performance positively, and negative expectations influence performance negatively.

Hector Ramirez is a new student in your class who has been identified as an ELL. In this assignment, you are asked to reflect on how you would initially react to Hector, and the expectations you would place upon him, knowing that he will face different challenges than his classmates.

High Expectations

Hector is not a blank slate. He has arrived at your class with a wealth of experience, preferences, abilities, interests, and proficiency in his home language. As a multidimensional individual who happens to be in the process of acquiring the English language, what expectations would you have of Hector about:

- a) his strengths and needs in the general curriculum?
- b) his ability to perform in the social environment?
- c) his opportunity for learning English while participating in your classes?

Asset Orientation

Each student has skills on which to build, cultural knowledge that can be used to enhance learning, and interests that can be tapped. How would you learn about these and how might they impact your expectations for Hector?

Continuum of Development

Some teachers believe that ELLs have missed the opportunity to learn on par with other students at lower grades. How would you consider this issue in Hector's case and what effect might it have on your expectations for Hector this year?
