Sheltered Instruction Guidelines (SI)

NOTE: This material is primarily from material developed through research from the Two-Way Immersion Toolkit, the work of Jana Echevarria & Anne Graves, and the Eric Clearinghouse on Languages & Linguistics. Strategies for SI were adapted from the SIOP Lesson Plan. SIOP features were integrated into the CTE Lesson Plans developed by UNT (which is based on best practices). The SIOP has been proven to be effective when used by teachers of English Language Learners (Echevarria & Short, 2007).

What is Sheltered Instruction?

Sheltered Instruction is a "process by which subject matter instruction is made more meaningful and accessible to English language learners (ELLs)" (Echevarria & Short, 2007). It makes grade-level content, such as those courses taught in Career and Technology Education programs (CTE) accessible while promoting English development. First introduced in the 1980s by Stephen Krashen, researchers developed a model for sheltered instruction in the 1990s based on the most effective practices using sound instructional methods.

Features that are Unique to SI

- Wait time
- Vocabulary
- Supplementary materials
- Student backgrounds
- Language objectives
- Adapted content
- Clarification in the student's native language

Other strategies that SI shares with Effective Instruction

- Pacing
- Scaffolding
- Vocabulary review
- Link to past learning
- Strategies
- Hand-on learning
- Feedback
- Review & assessment
- Higher-order thinking skills
- Student engagement
- Content objectives
- Meaningful activities
- Explanation of tasks
- Supplemental materials
- Grouping strategies

Strategies for SI (SIOP & as integrated into CTE Lessons on UNT website)

I. Preparation (LSI Quadrant I & II)
- adaptation of content
- linking to past learning
- strategies

II. Integration of Processes (LSI Quadrant II- Outline)
- reading
- writing
- speaking
- listening

III. Scaffolding
- modeling
- guided & independent practice (LSI Quadrant III)

IV. Application
- Hands-on
- Link to objectives
- Engage students

V. Grouping Options (LSI Quadrant III & IV: Team and Individual Grouping)
VI. Assessment (LSI Quadrant III & IV)
- Individual
- Group

Accommodations for Learning Differences
The following are currently included in each CTE lesson plan:
1. Lesson Plan/Curriculum Modifications Checklist
2. Guidelines and Procedures for Adapting Instructional Materials
3. Instructor Format for Curriculum Customization for Learning Differences
4. Sample Curriculum Customization for Learning Differences

SI Notes
Students with disabilities may need extra assistance and support in acquiring English. The SI model (as represented by the SIOP) has many features that are used for individuals with disabilities based of best practices with these students. These include focus on objectives, vocabulary, meaningful content and adaptations for learning and language differences (Echevarria & Graves, 2007). Researchers have also found that a two-prong approach may work best with those learners with limited English proficiency. This incorporates learning English in a traditional class, such as ESL, and blending in components of Sheltered Instruction for content area instruction. Learners who are experiencing difficulty can be having problems as a result of a learning disability or due to temporary language learning difficulties. If the learner has a long-term disability, it should manifest itself in both English and their first language. It is important to keep in mind that students from minority and ethnically diverse backgrounds are often overrepresented in special education classes due to possible bias based on language difficulties (Artiles & Ortiz, 2002, Reynolds, Lowe & Saenz, 1999). In order to prevent bias from occurring, the collection of data on the student must be done and an assessment in the student's first language (Howard, Sugarman, Perdomo, & Adger, 2005).

Sheltered Instruction Web Help
Language help can be found through the following web sites:
- Glossaries by Language Web: http://www.lai.com/glossaries.html
- Translation (check for errors after translation): http://babelfish.altavista.digital.com/babelfish/tr
- Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol Institute http://www.siopinstitute.net/
- Center for Applied Linguistics http://www.cal.org/