

DEVORA (DEBBIE) HELLERSTEIN-YEHEZKEL, PhD

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Debbie is the Head of the English for Academic Purposes Department and Head of the International Relations Department at the Academic College at Wingate, Israel. Her courses and research focus on the preparation of students for academic reading and writing by enhancing critical analysis of texts.



Devora was born in South Africa, lived in Israel as a child and immigrated to the United States at the age of nine where she grew up. She completed her B.A. in French and Spanish Studies at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, IL (1992), and her M.A. in Spanish and Latin-American Studies at Duke University, Durham, NC (1995). During her graduate studies she began to teach Spanish as a foreign language. In 1995 she returned to Israel where she began teaching Spanish and English.

Teaching a language in the old-new country and engaging with students of many diverse populations allowed Devora to gain more experience and knowledge about intercultural competence and its significance in the language classroom. In 2003 she co-authored with Dr. Marina Rosenberg a matriculation preparation book for the 4-pt English exam entitled *STAR: Steps to Academic Reading* (Publisher: Eric Cohen Books, Ra'anana).

In 2013, Devora completed her doctoral thesis at the University of Sussex, Brighton, UK, entitled *Celebrating Diversity: The Significance of Cultural Differences on Reading Comprehension Processes of the Young Adult EFL Learner in a Matriculation Preparation Programme in Israel*.

10th ITW topic

Academic Writing in English: An Introduction (8-hour workshop).