

All about the Textbook Project Workshop

LET ME START OFF BY SAYING THAT THIS IS NOT A STUDY GROUP FOR A PARTICULAR TEXTBOOK MUCH LESS A SPECIAL LECTURE ON THE USE OF A TEXTBOOK (FOR EXAMPLE, THE *MINNA NO NIHONGO*).

WHAT WE ARE INSTEAD IS A GROUP OF NIHONGO TEACHERS COMING TOGETHER TO DRUM UP IDEAS FOR WHAT IS ESSENTIALLY "TOMORROW'S CLASS"; PROVIDING A TIME AND A PLACE FOR EVERYONE TO COME TOGETHER TO SHARE AND EXCHANGE IDEAS FOR OUR JAPANESE CLASSES.

THE THEME IS NOT "HOW TO TEACH A TEXTBOOK", BUT "HOW TO USE A TEXTBOOK TO TEACH".

I AM PRETTY CERTAIN THAT WE ALL HAVE OUR SHARE OF WORRIES AND TROUBLES ABOUT OUR EVERYDAY CLASSES. WHO AMONGST US HASN'T BEEN BEFUDDLED BY SOME OF OUR STUDENTS' QUESTIONS? THUS WAS BORN THE IDEA OF THIS WORKSHOP. CREATE A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE WITH SIMILAR CONCERNS CAN COME TOGETHER TO SHARE THEIR PROBLEMS AND WORRIES, A PLACE WHERE EVERYONE CAN CONSULT WITH EACH OTHER, TALK THINGS OUT WITH EACH OTHER, AND IN THE PROCESS OF SHARING ONE'S THOUGHTS COME UP WITH SOLUTIONS ABOUT WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT TOMORROW'S CLASS.

THEREFORE THE WORKSHOP IS NOT A ONE-TIME THING. FROM NOW, EVERY WEEK, IF YOU COME HERE, YOU WILL GET TO KNOW OTHER PEOPLE AND LEARN ABOUT WHAT THEY ARE TRYING OUT IN THEIR CLASSES. COME ANYTIME YOU PLEASE AND LEAVE ANYTIME YOU PLEASE WITH SOMETHING INSPIRING FOR TOMORROW'S CLASS. LEAVE WITH A FEELING OF EXCITEMENT ABOUT TOMORROW'S CLASS ANTICIPATING YOUR STUDENTS' REACTIONS. "I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE MY STUDENTS' FACES WHEN WE DO THIS ACTIVITY." WATCH YOUR STUDENTS' FACES LIGHT UP AS THEY SAY "NOW, I GET IT!" LEAVE WITH A FEELING OF EAGERNESS FOR TOMORROW'S CLASS.

THIS IS WHAT WE HOPE TO MAKE OF THIS PLACE.

