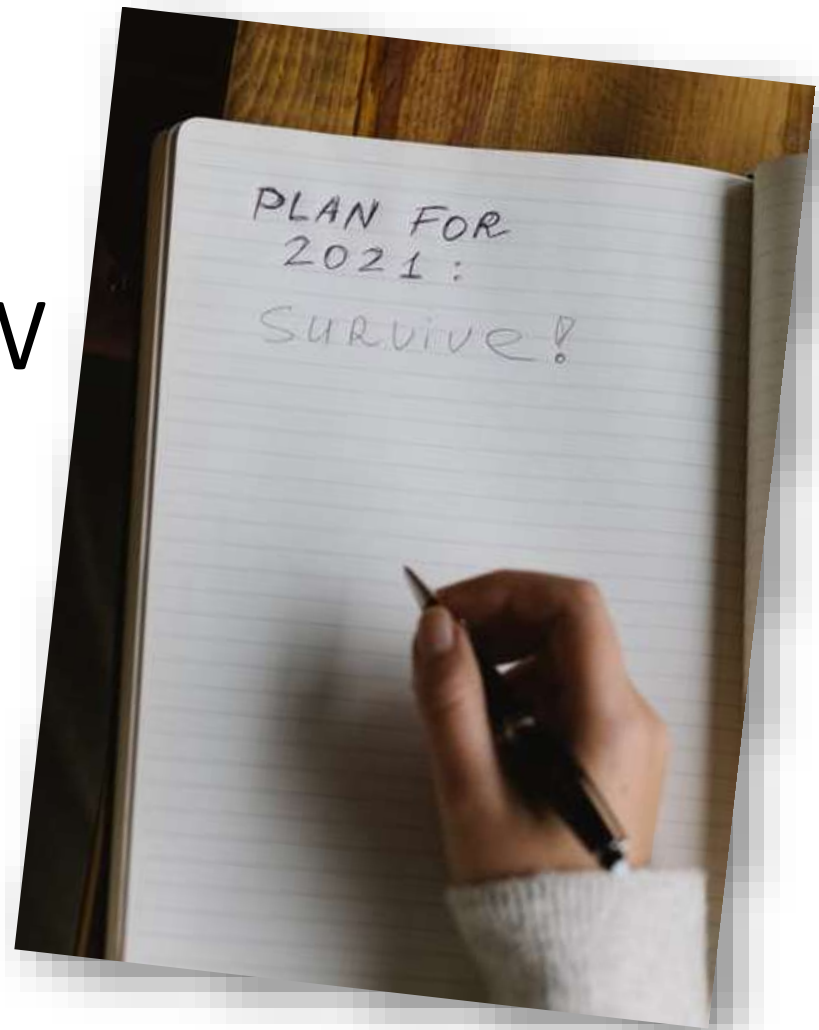# PowerPoint Summary

The following document contains of selection of slides from my plenary presentation at ORTESOL, October 23, 2021.

Surviving and *Thriving* in the New Pandemic Era

ORTESOL

2021 Virtual Fall Conference

Fall 2021

Randall Davis
English Language Institute
University of Utah

Contact: randall.davis@utah.edu

Warm-Up Question

1. What have been the greatest challenges facing you, your institution, your students, and their families during the pandemic?

Purpose of Presentation

1. Explore six concepts and ideas that have reshaped my teaching and learning during the pandemic era.

2. Propose a book, a technology, or online resource for teachers to explore each point.

SIX Keys

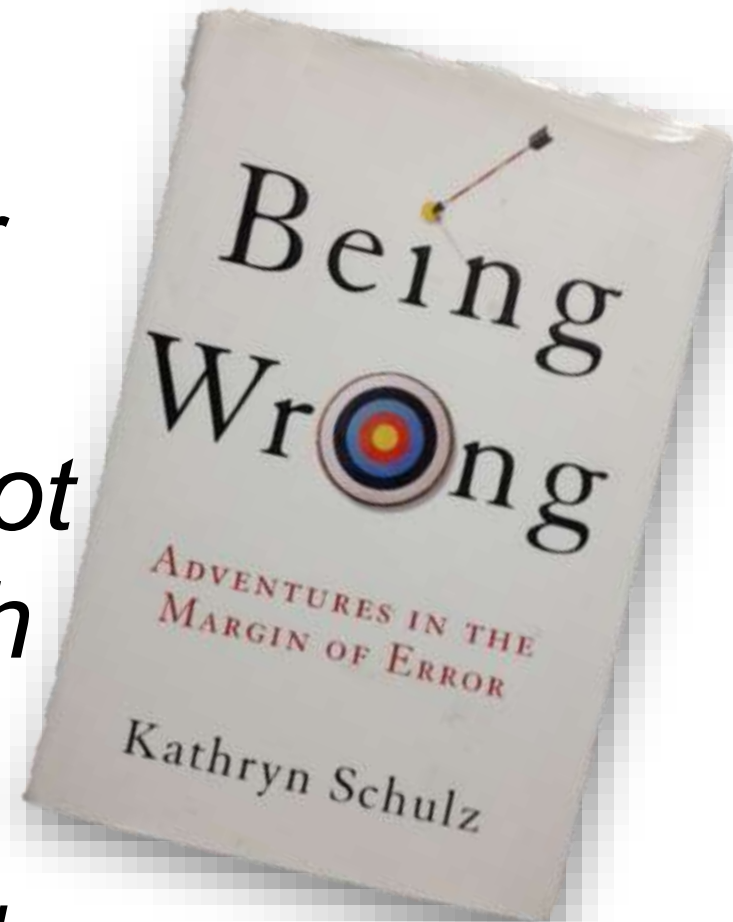1. Realize that I could be wrong about so many things and people and not even know it.

The benefits and/or challenges of online learning environments

The emotional distress experienced by teachers, parents, and students

Learning Key

"However disorienting, difficult, or humbling our mistakes might be, it is ultimately wrongness, not rightness, that can teach us who we are."

Kathryn Schulz, *Being Wrong*

Resources

Books on how to better perceiving the world and others around us.

Application

❖ Accept the limitations and boundaries of your knowledge.

❖ Become more humble and open to new ideas and your lack of awareness.

❖Recognize we don't understand the struggles of our students and colleagues.

SIX Keys

1. Realize that I could be wrong about so many things and not even know it.

2. Be authentic and vulnerable.

FEAR OF DISCLOSURE

"Will others see me as flawed or imperfect because of my mistakes, uncertainties, or current limitations that have appeared during the pandemic?"

Brené Brown
Researcher on Vulnerability, Shame, and Courage

"Many of us live in fear —the fear of looking weak, flawed, and imperfect."

"Vulnerability is the birthplace of innovation, creativity and change."

Vulnerability > Authenticity

Authenticity

- ❖ Authenticity builds honest human connections with others and greater trust.

- ❖ Authenticity attracts real people.

- ❖ Authenticity helps you wear the same face no matter what the circumstances.

Resource – TED Talk

The Power of Vulnerability
Brené Brown

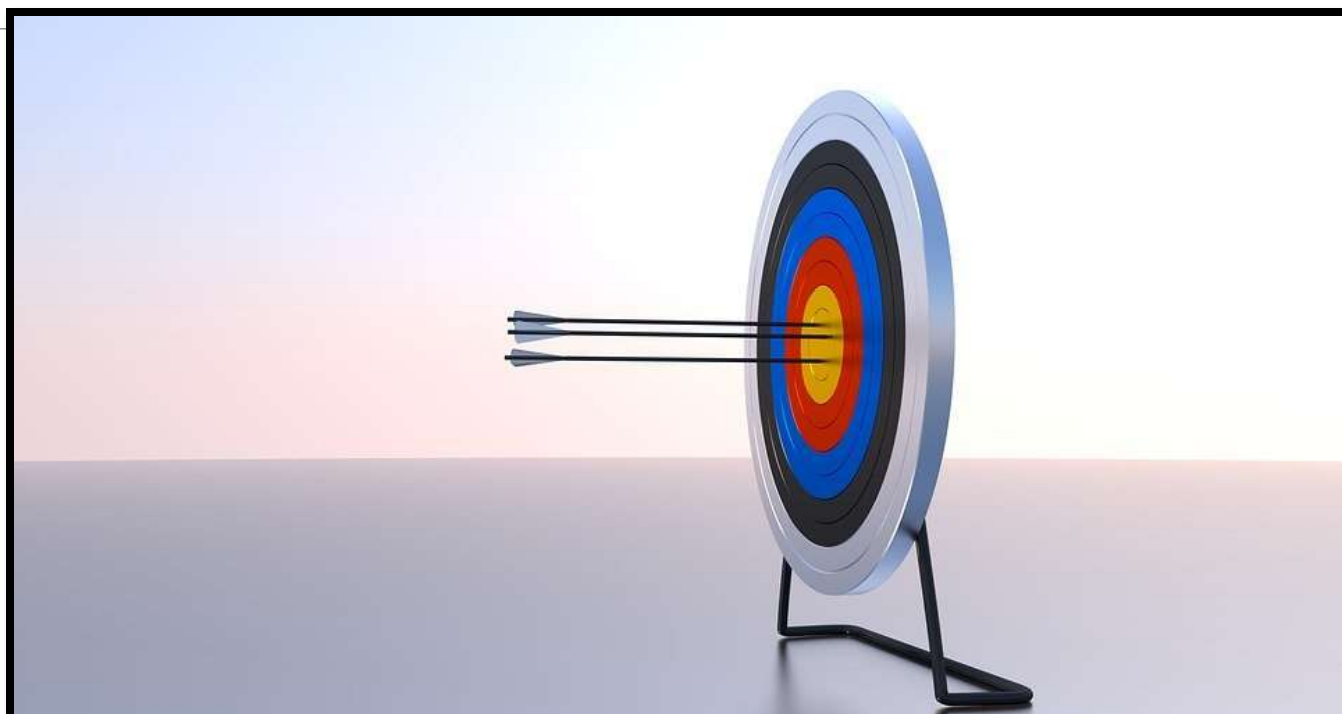https://www.ted.com/talks/brene_brown_the_power_of_vulnerability

Technology, Entertainment, Design

SIX Keys

3. Use technology judiciously during the pandemic era and beyond

Set Realistic Goals for Online Classes

What are your instructional aims realizing
the differing needs of learners and
the limitations of technology?
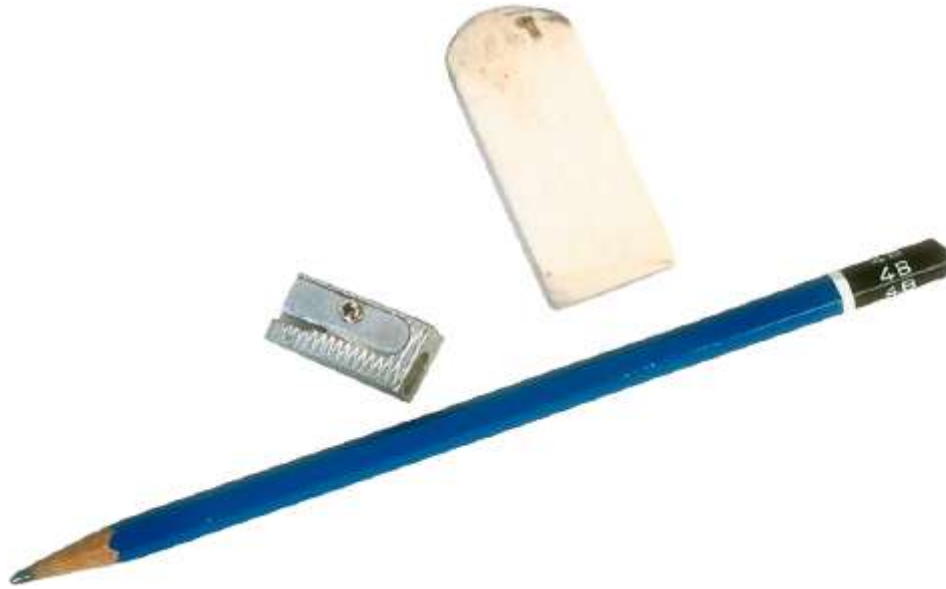
"Less is More" Principle

Just because you CAN do it with technology doesn't mean it SHOULD be done.

Don't abandon what already works for you.

Simplify things!

Use only what you need! Easier to learn, support, and maintain.

Technologies that Work!

Don't abandon what already works for you.

Application

❖ Suggest technologies that work even in low-resource environments.

"Will that technology work easily in a classroom with 50 or more students?"

Online Teaching Tools and Tips

Video - https://youtu.be/NI6IlqKpU-Q

Microphones

Pop Screens

Smartphones, Webcams, or DSLR Cameras

Lighting

Green Screen and Backgrounds

Tripods (cup tripod)

Teleprompters (apps and actual devices)

Technical Resources

General differences are in the features of the microphone (mute button, audio gain control, headphone jack).

1. Blue Yeti USB Mic - https://amz.run/4B1D

2. FIFINE K678 USB Podcast Microphone - https://amz.run/4Av8

3. FIFINE k668 USB Microphone - https://amz.run/4B1B

4. Purple Panda Lavalier Lapel Microphone - https://amz.run/4AvB

5. BOYA Lavalier Condenser Microphone - https://amz.run/4B0x

6. Portable Green Screen Backdrop - https://amz.run/4Av7

7. LYLYCTY Green Screen Backdrop - https://amz.run/4B15

Mentioned in Presentation

8. Neewer Light Stand - https://amz.run/4B0z

9. Softbox Lighting Kit - https://amz.run/4Bdg - Dimmable Tricolor Light

10. Neewer Dimmable 176 LED Video Light - https://amz.run/4AvA

11. Selens Portable Round Reflector - https://amz.run/4Av1

12. Neewer Portable Desktop Mini Tripod - https://amz.run/4B0K

13. Logitech c920xPro HD Webcam - https://amz.run/4Bct

https://www.wikihow.com/Build-a-Portable-Green-Screen

Homemade Teleprompter

MAKING A $4 DOLLAR STORE DIY TELEPROMPTER

https://youtu.be/f62KR51VE6c

Tips for Online Classes

1. Look at the camera, not at your screen.

2. Come up with clear classroom policies including whether cameras are turned on or off.

3. Learn how to use all the features of screen sharing, including sharing audio/video from your computer,

4. Assign someone to monitor the chat.

5. Experiment with video virtual green screens to create a fun and engaging learning environment.

6. Use the polling feature to encourage engagement (polling, breakout rooms, whiteboard, annotation, chat).

Application

❖ Don't penalize or stigmatize teachers who don't use technology the way you do.

❖ Support others who may feel unneeded embarrassment for falling a little behind.

SIX Keys

4. Reimaging the traditional paradigm of teacher training.

Dilemma

"Professional development cannot be part of the solution until it is no longer part of the problem."

Hayes Mizell
Professional Development Educator

Problems with Current Professional Development

- Not relevant to teachers' needs in diverse contexts.
- Too generic and superficial.
- Too short with no follow-up support.
- Focus on novelty tools that assume they are better.
- Too much information to process.
- No specific process to determine PD outcomes in instruction. Examine outcomes in depth, not superficially.

Point

ACTION PLAN: No "drive through window" workshops.

Provide long-term, sustained, and cumulative practice (job-embedded training).

Point

TRAINING: Avoid the lecture model or marathon training sessions that become an information dumping ground.

Provide small, digestible chunks of learning.

----- No 500-slide show in 15 minutes.

Point

- Develop and assign expert teacher mentors and coaches to other teachers.
- Foster a creative, supportive, and collaborative culture.

Benefits of Mentor Collaborative Learning

- Reach out to other teachers in your program who might feel isolated and overwhelmed. Validate.

- Organize task-based Zoom meetings to address specific needs and teaching tips. Keep things short and concise. "Less" is often "more."

- Expand your network of colleagues and online communities (friendships) through Social media and language-teaching events.
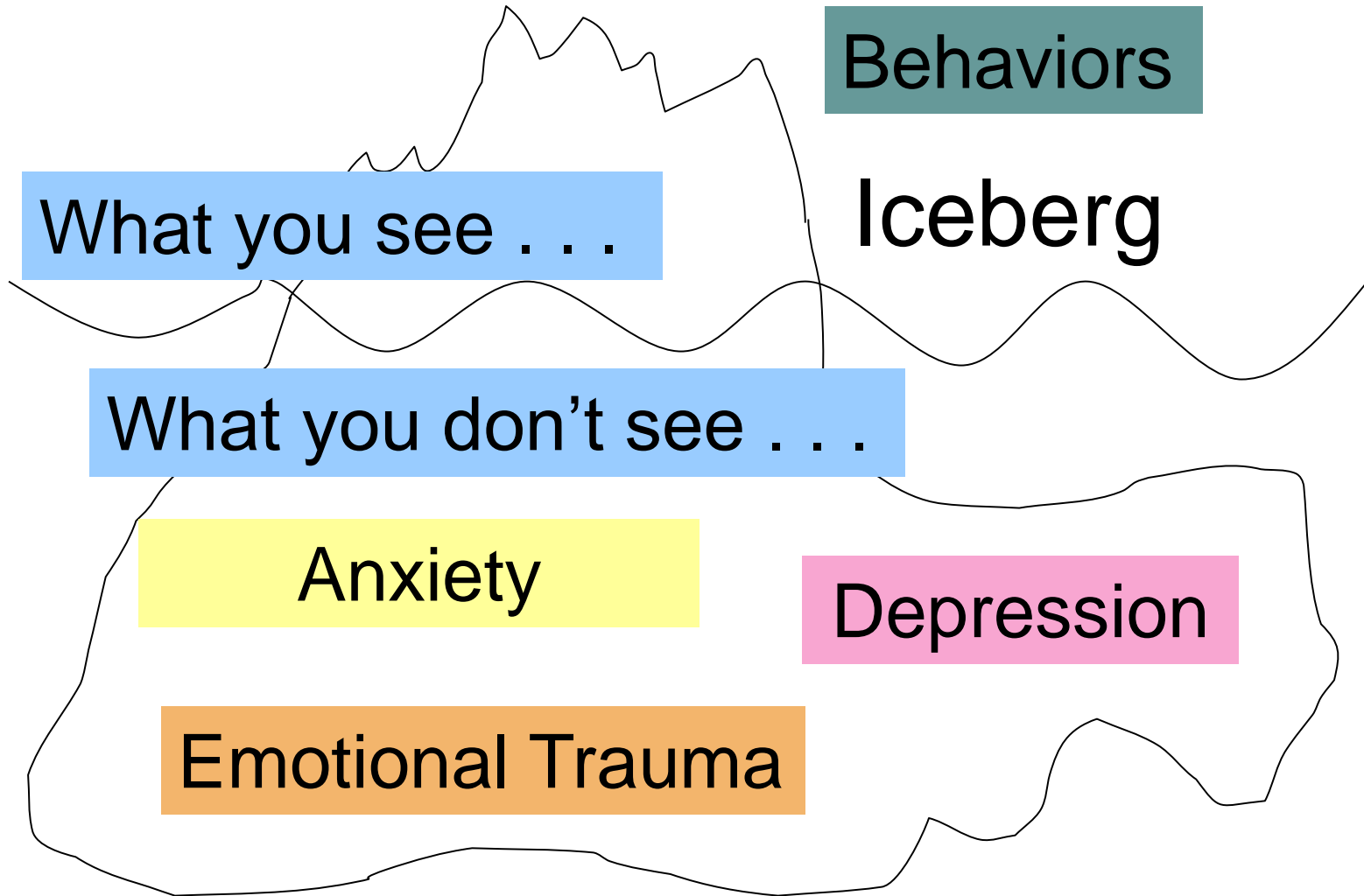
SIX Keys

4. Reimaging the traditional paradigm of teacher training.

5. Learning and practicing the language of empathy.

Situations

Teachers sometimes misunderstand students' perceptions, feelings, and needs, especially when they struggle personally and academically. This has been particularly true during the pandemic.

Understanding Others

Behaviors

Iceberg

What you see . . .

What you don't see . . .
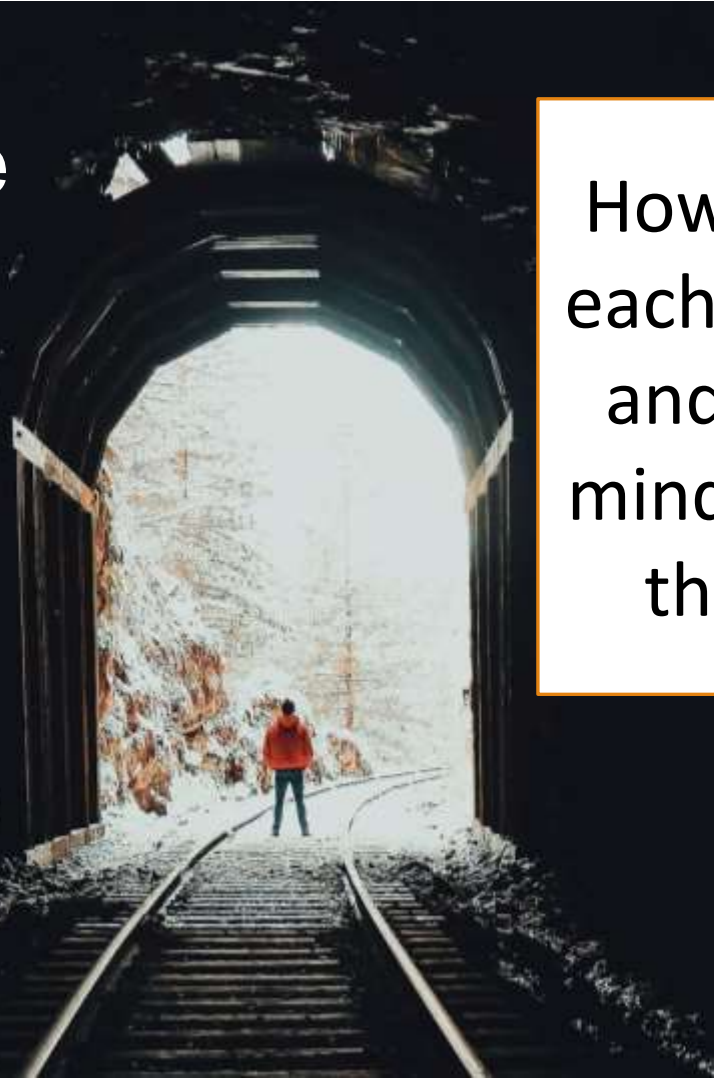
Anxiety

Depression

Emotional Trauma

Application

❖ Learn about others and their lives. Validate their perspectives, their struggles, and their challenges.

❖ Sit with people in their discomfort and pain, and just seek to understand them. People are often struggling beyond your awareness.

SIX Keys

5. Learning and practicing the language of empathy.

6. Dare greatly.

"The mind, once stretched by a new idea, never regains its original dimensions."

- Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr.

How can we help each other stretch and enlarge our minds and skills in this new era?