





	<p>Professional Organizations</p>

	<p>Introduction</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Teaching can often feel very overwhelming and isolating.  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Becoming a member of a professional organization can provide you with the support, networking, and training you might need.

	<p>Introduction</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A professional organization is a non-profit organization for advancing a specific profession and for defending the public interest and the interest of professionals. ■ Most academic areas have professional organizations at the state, regional, and national/international levels. ■ The members of these organizations are people who have a shared interests in the offerings of that organization. 

	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Examples of professional organizations</h2>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ State Level: ■ Sunshine State TESOL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Membership: Second language educators (mainly TESOL) in Florida ■ Website: http://www.sunshine-tesol.org/ ■ Newsletter: <i>The Messenger</i> ■ Journal: <i>The Sunshine State TESOL Journal</i> ■ Conference: Annually, usually in May ■ National Level: ■ Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Membership: TESOL educators nationally and internationally ■ Website: http://www.tesol.org/ ■ Newsletter: <i>Essential Teacher</i> ■ Journal: <i>TESOL Quarterly</i> ■ Conference: Annually, usually in March

	<h2 style="text-align: center;">By becoming a member of a professional organization, you can...</h2>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Develop relationships with peers ■ Engage in life-long learning ■ Keep up with current research, strategies, and trends in your field ■ Engage in networking – find out about employment, grant, travel, and resource opportunities ■ Learn from colleagues/collaborate with colleagues ■ Serve the profession by assisting at conferences, serving on committees, etc. 

	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Other benefits...</h2>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ You will receive newsletters and professional journals on a regular basis. These publications provide you with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – News – Announcements – Articles written by K-12 and university educators about strategies that have worked for them, research they have conducted, etc. – Wealth of resources ■ You will receive information about their annual conferences. As a student, you will probably be able to pay a discounted conference registration fee. 

	<h2 style="text-align: center;">How to join...</h2>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Go to the professional organization's website. ■ Look for "Membership" link. ■ Complete and submit the form online or in hard copy form. ■ Join while you are a student. You will receive a HUGE discount as a student! ■ If required to provide a letter verifying your status as a student, ask your advisor or another faculty member if they might write you a letter.
