

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY IS A

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SUPERPOWER

COMMANDING LANGUAGES TO IMPACT LEARNING

- **MULTI-SKILLED AND MULTILINGUAL JEFF PAGE'S ESL GOALS**
- **LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY AS A PATHWAY FOR NEW OPPORTUNITIES**
- **ABOUT HIS "ENGLISH AND SPANISH LITERATURE" PODCAST**
- ***AND SO MUCH MORE!***

When a person has the ability to teach in multiple settings and can also communicate in multiple languages, the positive impact of their language superpowers has an exponentially greater ripple effect on the betterment of students and society as a whole.

As a bilingual special education K-12 Paraprofessional in New Jersey, Jeff Page is a valuable resource to the high school he works at. Language proficiency in Spanish afforded Jeff the opportunity to become a district interpreter and translator for the students and their families during the 2021-2022 school year.



"I am fluent in the Spanish language and took part in a study abroad program in Spain in 2013 when I was a student at Rider University. I enjoy writing and speaking in both English and Spanish and believe I can use this valuable skill for future employment in an entrepreneurial and educational setting," he shares. Jeff is currently focused on completing his English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) studies. "I need to be well-versed, or at least familiar with the native languages of my students and to be the bridge between their language and their acquisition of English," he adds.

Jeff's commitment to supporting youth for their overall well-being is displayed in his role as a private tennis instructor for children between the ages of 7 and 17, for which his language proficiency allows him to have a wider pool of customers who may prefer lessons in Spanish. He also produces an audiobook narration podcast called "English and Spanish Literature" where he narrates in English and in Spanish, as well as Ecclesiastical Latin, and Esperanto.

On the advantages of being multilingual, Jeff stated that "Learning another language opens so many opportunities in the workforce. Although there are language translator apps and AI, I still think that if

you have a deep command of a second or third language, this makes you more attractive and unique to potential employers. You can build better professional relationships and rapport with clients and coworkers who know your target language, and this can help tremendously as an educator like myself to better serve students."

Jeff has grown to appreciate different languages in different modalities throughout his journey on becoming multilingual. He can listen to language learning podcasts and audiobooks, write poetry in Spanish, and has conducted bilingual speeches in English and Spanish as a member of the Toastmasters International club he participates in.



In order to become a certified ESOL teacher, Jeff had to take the ACTFL OPIc® and WPT® assessments in English through Language Testing International.

Jeff describes the remote proctoring process of assessing the language proficiency certification of the candidate as helpful and efficient. "Their instructions for technical setup for the tests were very clear and straightforward, and the test was enjoyable, as strange as that sounds. The avatar had a friendly and welcoming voice during the spoken test and the written test was sufficiently difficult, but it wasn't as difficult as SATs or the GRE. Overall, it was a great experience with LTI."

