

TO: ISNITE 2014 conference organizers
FROM: Flavia Laviosa
DATE: 17 March 2014
RE: Proposal for conference presentation

The ACTFL Oral Proficiency Guidelines

The American Council for Teachers of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Guidelines are used across North America and in an increasing number of countries across the world as a reliable instrument to assess what individuals can DO with language in terms of speaking, in real-life, non-rehearsed situations. While the ACTFL Guidelines are purely descriptive and not prescriptive, they do have instructional implications, and for the past 25 years, they have had an increasingly profound impact on instructional strategies and curricular design. The main impact is the shift in focus from assumed knowledge to observable performance. It is not what students *know about* the language that matters in the end, it is what they can *do* with it. The purpose of this presentation is to introduce and explain the ACTFL OPI Guidelines and their implications for instruction and curriculum design.

Flavia Laviosa is Senior Lecturer in the Department of Italian Studies at Wellesley College. She directs the Foreign Language Faculty Professional Development Program at Wellesley College; is an ACTFL certified trainer, tester, rater and mentor for Italian; and trains teachers in North America and Europe.