

Anne Padilla, Ed.S., Linguistics and ESL, 1987

By Sarah K. Miller

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Anne Padilla earned her bachelor's degree in English at Hunter College in New York City in 1962. She continued her education to receive her Masters of Arts in English at the University of Illinois, Champaign Urbana in 1966. She also received her Educational Specialist degree in secondary education with a concentration in linguistics and English as a second language from WKU in 1987. "I took the Linguistics and ESL classes while I was teaching as an Adjunct Faculty from 1976-1985. I taught part time at WKU in the English Department, where I was treated respectfully and collegially." While she completed her degree, she began teaching at Bowling Green High School in 1985.

Padilla taught at the same local high school until 2015. She taught all levels of English, including AP literature and composition, as well as Spanish when asked by the administration. "Since all of the courses I took at WKU were in the field of Linguistics and ESL, I have used the skills on a daily basis," Padilla said. "I have a much broader understanding of how the grammar of language works--in both English and Spanish. I am better able to help ESL students in my 'regular' classes. And I have a much more effective way to analyze student writing and talk to students about their writing." She has since retired from working full-time working, but continues at Bowling Green High School as a part-time consultant.

From all of her years of teaching Padilla has many tips for students who want to teach. "If you are planning to teach in middle or high school, make sure you are taking as many Literature courses as possible, especially in the 'canon,' since that IS what you will be teaching. Also, take at least one course in grammar and/or linguistics so that you can analyze the writing issues your students will present to you. Also, take writing classes, especially classes that will help you teach and respond to analytical and expository writing. Teaching writing requires MANY skills. There is absolutely no

substitute for a STRONG background in the study and analysis of literature and in analyzing student writing with the purpose of helping the students to write clearly and effectively. Clarity, focus, development, and command of sentences are the biggest issues we face in student writing.”

