

## **Interview with Blaine Ray, inventor of TPR Storytelling®** **[www.TPRSBooks.com](http://www.TPRSBooks.com)**

by Karen Rowan



I had the opportunity to sit down with Blaine Ray, inventor of TPR Storytelling® at ACTFL in Boston, November 2016, to ask him:

What are the three most important points that you would like to see make their way into classroom practice?

### 1. No Unnecessary Testing

I love SWCOLT Teacher of the Year Darcy Pippins's idea: "Assess less".

I love [Dr. Stephen] Krashen's quote, "Weighing the pig more often will not make it grow faster." Teachers spend way too much time weighing the pig. Do very minimal assessments that count. We are assessing every second! When we see student hesitation, we're assessing.

### 2. Teach Narrow and Deep

The main idea of TPRS is we need to practice less is more. The TPRS mentality means we provide massive amounts of comprehensible input using high frequency vocabulary until each student can demonstrate acquisition and comprehension.

### 3. Nothing Motivates Like Success (Susan Gross)

The other thing: I would like teachers to have the concept of providing comprehensible input to students until they are not just “getting it”, but they are “so getting it.” There’s a big gap between the feeling of “I am so getting this” and “I’m getting this.” It’s a measure of confidence. It’s “Oh my gosh, this is amazing, because I’m so getting it!”



QTALK Interactive

comprehensible input through images

[www.qtalk.com](http://www.qtalk.com)

The advertisement features a man in a white shirt pointing at a large screen. The screen displays a grid of colorful icons and text, including a woman's face, a hand, a birthday cake, and the letters 'Q', '1', and 'Y'. The background is a blue wall with a pattern of white letters.