

## Notions abordées : L'idée de progrès & Espaces et échanges

An interview with Wanda Porter by Shelly De Vito

American Voices

# Texting in Schools

**Shelly:** Teachers are getting a bit annoyed with all the new means of communication that are crowding out the old-fashioned, respectable means, such as writing with proper spelling and speaking face to face. Listen to one teacher's opinion.

**Wanda:** One thing that does bother me and...and it's something that teachers talk about a great deal, is that the social networking that, you know, for example my granddaughter who was visiting us for a while, it seemed to me that about many of her waking hours she's texting. She's talking to somebody, she's using her thumbs, and teachers have noticed that this is affecting students' spelling and grammar, because of course they use that...that shorthand version and...I don't know what the answer to this is. I...and I also almost fear that students who might be talking to each other in person, are just communicating with...in this shorthand version. So I don't know what the long term effects of this social networking and texting and so forth will be, but I do know it is a concern. We try to make the students college and career ready; maybe they're not getting the writing skills that they're going to need to be college and career ready, if they're spending so much time with this abbreviated form of communication.