

ESL Teaching Idea: Class Speaking Activity

Level: Upper Intermediate, Advanced

Age: 16+

Monolingual classes of ESL/EFL

This activity is great for practising fluency and improvising.

- 1)** Tell each student to choose a topic they know a lot about, are passionate about and can talk about it for hours. Give them 5 minutes to prepare a short lecture/presentation in their NATIVE language. They can only write brief notes/bullet points. Don't tell them more at this stage.
- 2)** When they are ready, tell them that they are going to present their lecture/presentation at an international conference, but unfortunately, they don't speak English so they will need an interpreter. (Explain that they will interpret **consecutively**.)
- 3)** Put Ss in pairs and explain that they will interpret each other's presentations. Give them 5-10 minutes so they can familiarize themselves with the topic and important vocabulary that will be used in the presentation. At this stage, they can use the notes they previously prepared.
- 4)** The conference starts! The first pair of students gets on stage (in front of their classmates). The **speaker** starts their presentation and after every couple of sentences pauses so the **interpreter** can repeat what was said in the target language. At this stage don't correct the Ss, let them speak and write notes so you can provide feedback later.
- 5)** Don't let them speak longer than 5 minutes. If time allows, you can let the **audience** ask follow-up questions which will need to be translated from L2 into L1 and then the answer back from L1 to L2.
- 6)** After everyone had their turn, provide feedback on the mistakes they made and don't forget to praise them!