

Using TED Talks to Promote Language Learning

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Skill Focus: Listening, Speaking and Writing

Level: High school/College students

Estimated time: 60-90 minutes (This depends on the number of students in the class.)

Student group size: 4-6 students in a group

Objectives

1. To develop learners' speaking, listening, and writing competency by engaging them innovatively through TED Talk videos.
2. To encourage the creative use of ICT in the EFL/ESL class.
3. To develop leadership quality, presentation skills, language delivery and content skills in students.

Materials

Individual screens (phones/iPads)/big screen (projectors, LCD screen etc.), TED Talk videos (10-15 minutes length), worksheets, A4 sheets, pens.

Preparation

1. Provide a list of different themes and genres and students can pick or select their topics according to their interest.
2. Group students based on their topics.
3. Explain to students the pre-viewing and post-viewing activities.

Procedure

1. Provide learners with a list of topics on different themes and genres.
2. Based on the selected topics each group will be provided the TED Talk video. Teachers can select videos on different topics that are student-centric, inspiring, and focused on the objectives of this activity.
3. Form groups (4-6 students in each group) based on their topics.
4. Pre-viewing exercise:
 - (i) The objective should be clearly explained so that the viewing is purposeful. As a pre-viewing exercise provide some background knowledge of the TED Talk.
 - (ii) Provide the transcripts before watching the video so that students can get an idea of the video and while watching it would be easily comprehensible for them.
 - (iii) Before watching the video, for example, TED Talk by Sparsh Shah, the teacher can discuss the meaning and context of difficult vocabulary items like: 'antidisestablishment-arianism', 'Pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis', 'supercalifragilisticexpialidocious' etc. Other TED Talks on different themes and genres along with a motivational message for students by experts can be selected for example, talk by Bandi Guan on Climate Change, Vinay Menon on Indian Education System, and Brad Aeon on Time Management.
5. (i) Post-viewing activity:

Group discussion: Students can discuss among themselves about the video they watched.

Extempore speech: One student from each group can make a brief presentation on their respective topics.

Role Play: Each group picks a similar situation based on the theme or the video they watched and prepares a skit of 5-7 minutes. Students take on the role they are representing, prepare dialogues and acts in front of the class.

 - (ii) Based on each video the teacher can prepare worksheets

as post-viewing activities. Students can be asked to write meanings of words, phrases and idioms and make sentences with newly learnt words from the videos.

Follow on Activity

Students can be given a list of ten words from the TED Talk they watched and asked to write a short story /essay with those words.

Evaluation of the Activity

1. This activity will promote creativity and collaborative learning among students and serve as an opportunity for improving learners' speaking, listening, and writing skills using authentic audio-visual materials in an engaging manner.
2. Teachers can observe and evaluate individual student's interaction with peers and engagement during the group discussion.
3. Assessment can be done on parameters such as: organization of content, pronunciation, vocabulary, sentence construction, fluency, presentation skill, organization of thoughts, generation of new ideas and creativity.

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