

Impromptu discussion leads - GESE Grade 8

Grade: GESE Grade 8 (CEFR B2.2)

Time: 40 minutes

Aims:

- ▶ To practise developing and organising thoughts quickly and clearly
- ▶ To be able to speak fluidly and confidently on an unprepared topic
- ▶ To be able to persuade and/or discourage

Exam Task Focus:

- ▶ To communicate with some spontaneity and engage in extended conversation by giving clear descriptions and expressing and explaining views on most general subjects
- ▶ To handle interruptions by using recovery strategies
- ▶ To take the opportunity to use the language functions listed for the appropriate grade

Resources:

- ▶ Impromptu cards

Procedure

1. Use the discussion topics provided in the workshop or prepare your own based on current topics in the news.
2. Cut up the discussion topic strips on the handout provided and put them in a hat. Ask each student to draw one strip out of the hat for his or her discussion.
3. Put the students into pairs (A and B) and tell them that they are going to take it in turns to lead a short impromptu discussion on the topic they have drawn out of the hat. First, A will lead a discussion on their topic and then B will lead on theirs. They should each include, as much as possible, the information on the card.
4. Be clear that when they are leading the discussion, they are not going to give a one-sided presentation; they are instead going to talk about the subject and invite some comments from their partner. The person with the topic strip should do the majority of the talking but they will need to include their partner in the discussion. That partner should give short responses, ask for clarification if needed, show interest and ask a few questions during the discussion.
5. Give students very limited time to prepare (2-5 minutes) before taking it in turns to lead their impromptu discussion (up to 5 minutes) on the topic.
6. After the students have led their discussions, give them time to talk together about the experience.



Society and living standards – GESE Grade 8

social problems	family life	role of women	materialism
improvement	deterioration	childcare	care of elderly

The world of work – GESE Grade 8

job expectations	recruitment	salaries	working conditions
retirement age	pensions	job security	job prospects

National environmental concerns – GESE Grade 8

climate change	coastal erosion	effects	species extinction
responsibility	waste disposal	air quality	vandalism

Public figures – GESE Grade 8

royal	political	sporting	entertainment
past comparisons	impact on public	behaviour	privacy

Personal values and ideals – GESE Grade 8

shared values	changes to values	personal ideals	importance
core values	institutional	loss of ideals	power of values