

Balloon debate

Grade: GESE Grade 8 (CEFR B2.2)

Time: 50 minutes

Aim:

- ▶ A cooperative activity to practise speaking and listening, and to practise interactive communication at CEFR level B2.

Sub-skill focus:

- ▶ Initiating and maintaining the conversation, expressing ideas and opinions, speculating, agreeing/disagreeing, and establishing common ground.

Exam Task Focus:

- ▶ Collaborative and Conversation Task, Interactive Listening at B2 using the sub-skills and language functions of the grade.

Procedure

Lead-in

1. Ask students if they watch reality shows such as 'Big Brother?', 'I'm a Celebrity', etc.
2. What happens in these programmes? (Elicit the idea of contestants being eliminated, grounds for knock out, etc).

Activity

3. The teacher asks each student to choose (or allocates) a character (living or dead) from the world of sport, music, cinema, culture, politics, etc. The person they choose must have positively affected many countries / people's lives, etc.
4. Explain to the students that they must be ready to defend their choice and allow a few minutes for students to prepare to explain why their chosen person is/was so significant.
5. Divide into groups of four or five depending on the number of students. Explain that their characters are going up in a hot air balloon. The balloon risks crashing because it is too heavy, so they have to debate who to sacrifice so that only one person remains in the basket.
6. Monitor the discussion and encourage students to show agreement / disagreement with the suggestions given, express and expand their ideas and opinions, speculate on the consequences of eliminating a character.
7. Conduct feedback and discussion of language functions used.

