

1. Short Talks

Create a stack of topic cards for your students, so that each student will have their own card. Each student draws their card, and then you assign them a time limit—this limit may be one minute initially, or maybe three minutes when they have had practice. This is the amount of time that they'll have to speak about their given topic.

Now give the students a good chunk of time to gather their thoughts. You may want to give them anywhere from 5 minutes to half an hour for this preparation stage. You can let them write down three to five sentences on a flashcard to remind them of the direction they'll take in the course of their talk.

To keep listening students focused you could create an instant "Bingo" game. The class is told the topic and asked to write down five words which they might expect to hear (other than common words such as articles, conjunctions and auxiliary verbs). They listen for those words, crossing them off as they hear them and politely raising a hand if they hear all five.

