

MY THREE QUICK STARTERS OF THE LECTURE

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We all know that we should begin a lecture with a 10 minute starter to warm up our students brains and to wake up their minds from the last discipline to the topic of yours. I would share my top 3 non-preparation starters.

1. Stop-the-bus. Aim: To write a word related to each topic in pairs starting with a given letter as quickly as possible (according to our last lecture material).

This is a classic game with lots of different versions. The way I play it, the students are in pairs so that everyone is focused and involved. I find that sometimes if I put the students in bigger groups, there will be students who become lazy and rely on other. Each group has a piece of paper and a pen. On the board, I draw a grid with topics on the left-hand side of what they know or what they have recently learnt. I usually write between 5-10 topics depending on how quick the group work. Each group copies this down on their piece of paper. Then I write a letter at the top and the students think of a word for each topic, starting with that letter. The first team to complete the list, shouts 'stop the bus' and everyone puts their pen down. If all the words are correct, the team gets a point. The students love this game and it motivates them.

2. Board run. Aim: To write as many words as a team related to the topic without repeating words.

This is more of a physical activity and takes around 10 minutes. First, I put students into 4 groups and they stand in a line facing the board. I give a board marker to the person at the front of the line. I write a different subject on the board for each group. The first person has to write one word related to their heading then pass the board marker to the next person in the line and run to the back. After, all the students sit down and we go through each list as a class. I give a point to each correct word. Then the team with the most points wins.

3. One-minutes questions. Aim: To discuss a question for 1 minute

This is a quick speaking task, where I put them in 2s or 3s, depending on their speaking abilities. If they are lower abilities, I put them in 3s as it can be difficult to have a flowing conversation. I write a question on the board and I give them 1 minute to answer the questions. You can choose different questions based on the topics of your last lecture material they have recently learnt. I normally get feedback from 1 group, getting a student to explain another person's idea from their group. This means that they all have to talk and listen to each other.

Depending on time, I give them a 3-4 questions to discuss in total to fill the 10 minutes.

All of these starters can be adapted to your discipline as well as spending longer or shorter time on them.