



1.1 Introductory Speeches

This activity introduces basic presentation and speech organization skills. Students interview one another and then give "debate-style" speeches to introduce their partner to the class. This activity works well as an ice-breaker on the first day.

Objectives

By the end of this activity, each student will:

- be introduced to delivering speeches in front of the class.
- be introduced to using a clear structure to organize ideas.
- get to know one another.

Time Allotment

30 minutes

Method

Assign each student in the class a partner.

Allow 6-7 minutes to interview one another. Students should ask one another about favorite foods, family members, hobbies, interests, personal history, etc. Each student should take notes on the partner's responses to their questions. After each student has had a chance to both ask and answer questions, bring the class back together.

Allow students 1-2 minutes to prepare a 30-second speech introducing their partner to the class. Encourage them to focus on four key things they would like to communicate about their partner and to clearly separate them in their speech. Each student should say "The first important thing about [student X] are her hobbies. Her hobbies are.....The second important thing about [student X] is...."