

Teacher's Notes

Aim: to develop the students' ability to discuss contemporary problems / situations and to analyse and evaluate the effectiveness of their solutions.

Level: ***** [B1/ B2/C1/C2] **Lesson Time:** 1-2 hours

Speaking Tasks (analysis & Evaluation)

1. Basic overview

- i. Put students in small groups (groups of 4s or 5s).
- ii. Hand out seminar phrases (if needed) to aid the fluency of the discussion.
<https://academic-englishuk.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Seminar-phrases-AEUK.pdf>
- iii. Explain to the students that they are going to have a discussion and try to come to an agreement on a suitable solution(s).
- iv. Give out a task card to each group (**good idea!** give out the same topic card to each group for a more focused discussion and feedback session).
- v. Give the students 20-30 minutes.
- vi. Students discuss the key information on the card and one person takes notes.
- vii. **Optional:** After they have finished their discussion they prepare a short presentation on their observations / findings from the discussion.
- viii. **Optional:** All the students give a short presentation to their class on their findings and possible solutions.
- ix. Repeat with a different task.

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Speaking Tasks

Halls of Residence

The university is building a new halls of residence and wants to collect important feedback from the students so that the architects can plan a modern building that fulfils most of the students' needs and wants.

In your group discuss:

- 1) What you like and dislike about your present accommodation.
- 2) What should be included in the design of a new building.
- 3) Evaluate these new ideas (positives & negatives).
 - Take notes and be prepared to present your ideas to the class

A Greener University

The university is committed to being more environmentally friendly and proactive in reducing its [redacted] [redacted] Climate Change. These [redacted] [redacted] that the university has highlighted as issues that it would like to address:

- Too many students using the lift (elevator) in the main building.
- [redacted] [redacted]
- Students not recycling.
- Teachers using too much paper.
- [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
- Cigarette ends on the floor outside the main entrance.

In your group discuss:

- 1) How each one of the problems could be improved.
- 2) Evaluate (positives & negatives) the effectiveness of your solutions.
 - Take notes and be prepared to present your ideas to class

Speaking English

Many of the international students are complaining that they do not have enough opportunity to speak [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. In fact, many international students are spending most of their free time in the same [REDACTED] [REDACTED] first language. This is preventing [REDACTED] [REDACTED] communication and reducing confidence.

In your group discuss:

- 1) Is this true for you? Or anyone you know? Do you know any native speakers?
- 2) How can students [REDACTED] [REDACTED] here?
- 3) What should [REDACTED] [REDACTED] improve English speaking?
- 4) Evaluate these solutions and make a decision on the most plausible strategies.
 - Take notes and be prepared to present your ideas to class

Plagiarism: contract cheating

The university has recently become aware that international students (the number is unknown) are using [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. These websites offer to write original essays (100% plagiarism free) for a fixed price. Students [REDACTED] [REDACTED] sources and the essay [REDACTED] [REDACTED] in five days.

In your group discuss:

- 1) Have you heard of this before? Why do students use this system?
- 2) What are the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] these services?
- 3) How can using such websites [REDACTED] [REDACTED]?
- 5) How can the university stop this? What should be [REDACTED] [REDACTED] such an academic crime?
- 6) Evaluate (positives / negatives) of your solutions.
 - Take notes and be prepared to present your ideas to class

Traffic congestion

There is too much [redacted] [redacted] / on to campus in the rush hours of 8:00 – 9:30 & 16:30 – 18:00. As a result this has led to [redacted] [redacted] and extended waiting [redacted] [redacted] implemented a number of key incentives but these seem to be failing.

- Car sharing initiatives.
- Improved bus [redacted] [redacted] schemes.
- City Centre congestion charge & increased parking charges.
- Increased [redacted] [redacted] routes.

In your group discuss:

- 1) What you understand about the council's solutions (above).
- 2) Evaluate (positives /negatives) of each [redacted] [redacted]).
- 3) What should be [redacted] [redacted] centre?
- 4) Provide at least [redacted] [redacted] solutions.

- Take notes and be prepared to present your ideas to class

Homelessness

The number of homeless people in [redacted] [redacted]. Many of the homeless are [redacted] [redacted] a number of reasons. The local council is asking students to give their opinions and offer possible solutions to how [redacted] [redacted] could be reduced.

In your group discuss:

- 1) How you [redacted] [redacted] what you do when you see a homeless person.
- 2) What are the key reasons why someone [redacted] [redacted]
- 3) Looking at these [redacted] [redacted] for each specific case.
- 4) Evaluate (positive & negatives) your possible solutions.

- Take notes and be prepared to present your ideas to class