

Activity Ideas: Two-Minute Discussions

TWO-MINUTE DISCUSSIONS

Two-Minute Discussions allows students to activate pre-existing knowledge on a topic or theme. The quick conversations get the class focused on the topic, thereby improving receptivity and comprehension of the material. This activity works especially well as a Warm Up.

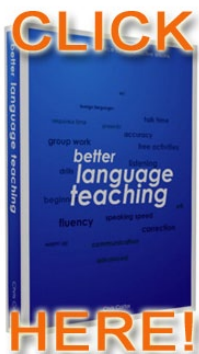
Step One: The teacher prepares five questions on a specific topic before the lesson. The questions should allow quick conversations to ensue between partners, so questions that are easy to understand and perhaps don't require deep, careful analysis work best. Remember: Students need to be able to read the question and immediately jump into a discussion.

Step Two: Students get into pairs for the discussion. The teacher should announce the topic, again as a step to prepare and focus students, as well as to activate pre-existing knowledge.

Step Three: The teacher reads aloud the first question. Students then answer the question in pairs, speaking continuously for two minutes. There should not be a lull in the conversation, nor should students spend much time forming answers. Two minutes goes very, very quickly!

Step Four: The teacher says, "Stop!" He then reads a second question, and students begin their conversations anew.

Step Five: After two minutes, the teacher again stops the students and reads the third question. This continues until all five questions have been read aloud and discussed.



If you liked this idea and want others, then take a look at my ebook, [Better Language Teaching](#). There are **100 activities** with more than **75 variations** for flexible, fun learning.

Have great classes!

Chris Cotter