ESU TEACHING RESOURCE

CHAIN Q AND A

OVERVIEW

This exercise will help students gain familiarity with different question types and get used to asking and answering questions. These skills are valuable in improving performance from classroom discussion through to the competitions run by the ESU.

OBJECTIVES

- To practise asking and answering questions
- To gain confidence in answering unseen questions

RESOURCES

List of prompts, e.g.
The place you most want to visit
The best animal to have as a pet
My favourite after-school activity

TASK

Divide the group into pairs. One student should begin by talking briefly about one of the prompts, and then asking a related follow-up question. For example, they might talk about a recent holiday and then ask their partner "Have you been on a special holiday?"

The second student should then answer the question and return a related follow-up of their own. Continue these back-and-forths for as long as students are able to find relevant questions and give informative answers. Then give a new prompt and begin again.
Encourage students to make their answers full and detailed. Remind them that good explanations can often be built by asking 'Why?' and then answering themselves beginning 'Because…'

If students are familiar with the '3 common question types' they can be reminded to use them here. If not, the facilitator can introduce the different types as an aid here.
1/ Asking for more information about something that was said in the speech which you think would give a clearer picture.
Eg. "You said your cat was 'playful,' what sort of things does she do?"
2/ Asking about an issue or a topic that wasn't mentioned in the speech and that you think would be valuable or interesting to hear about.
Eg. "We didn't hear anything about what your cat likes to eat. What sort of diet does she prefer?"

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3/ Presenting a different view or perspective to the main speech. Note that this isn't aggressively challenging but rather exploring the topic through raising alternate views.

Eg. "You said it's great that your cat is low maintenance. I have a dog and I think having to take him for walks is really fun. What do you think about that idea?"

Example Exercise

Prompt – my favourite food

I really like chocolate. The rich flavour and smooth texture combined make it one of my favourite treats. What do you think about chocolate?

I'm a big fan of it as well. I think it's delicious. What do you think is the best way to eat chocolate?

It is amazing on its own but I think it's even better in a rich, gooey brownie. Some people don't like chocolate. What do you think about them?

Well, of course people have different preferences, but I think they're really missing out on a great treat.