Virtual exchange - About me

Introduction
In this cultural exchange activity, students from different classes share images and a music video that they feel have significance for them. This activity can also be done with students who study in the same class together.

Webinar time reference: 00:52 – 02:38

Level: Any age or level

Time: 20 – 25 minutes, depending on the size and level of the class.

Aim: To help students get to know a bit more about each other.

Preparation:
- Find five photographs that show things that are meaningful to you, and one video of a piece of music that you feel is special for you.
- Ask students to also collect 5 images and a video clip they can share.

Procedure
- Tell the students that you want to find out more about them, and you want them to learn more about each other.
Tell them that you will go first. Show the students each of the images you have selected and tell the students a little about the images, why you chose them and why they are important to you. Finish by playing about 30 seconds of the video clip of the music and explain why it was a special significance to you.

Invite the students to ask you questions if they wish to know more about anything you have shown them.

Now tell the students you want them to do the same. Note: Depending on the size of the class, you may want to put students in groups to do this.

Make sure there is a mix of students from each class.

Alternatively, you could do a form of speed dating where you put students into pairs (one from each class) and give them time to share and talk before moving them to a new pair to repeat the process.

Once they have finished, ask the students to share something interesting they learned about the people they spoke to.

Additional resources

**Inside lives**

This activity practices students’ listening and speaking skills. They first listen to a description of two images, and then they analyse the language used and try to use it to describe some different pictures. The activity takes a similar format to that used in many speaking exams. The images used are those of Viennese migrants, all of whom run specialist businesses.

https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/inside-lives

**The image in English Language Teaching**

The Image in English Language Teaching is a free book edited by Kieran Donaghy and Daniel Xerri with contributions from several prominent writers in ELT. Each of these leading experts provide insightful articles and practical ideas for using still and moving images in language education.

https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/image-english-language-teaching
Put yourself in the picture

- This is a speaking task that encourages students to empathise with other people and try to understand them better. The activity uses a number of visuals of migrants, and the students have to imagine they are the person in the picture.

https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/put-yourself-picture