ESL STRATEGIES FOR *ALL* LEARNERS

**Strategy: Academic Discussion: How teachers can encourage more students to contribute during class discussion**

ELL’s are often spectators in content classes. Daily structured academic discussions will allow students to share responses, collaborate with peers and present ideas.

**Step by Step:**

* Brainstorm a topic of your choosing. Briefly record at least two ideas in each column using everyday English.
* Explain the directions clearly
* Analyze the vocabulary related to your topic.
* Break down the words into two categories; everyday words and precise words.
* Make a claim about your topic using academic English.
* Rewrite two ideas using academic English.

**Conclusion:**

English Language Learners need to be able to interact academically with skilled English speakers and have access to rigorous curricula at their grade level. As stated above, this strategy will facilitate **daily** opportunities for students to share responses, collaborate with peers, and present ideas.

Attached is a sample worksheet for you to try with your ELL’s in the content areas!

**Application & Examples:**

During a Social Studies discussion on bullying the teacher brainstorms two ideas “agree” and “disagree”

The teacher identifies the key vocabulary and places it in either the everyday category or the precise category. Students are partnered and asked to write two main idea sentences using the frames and precise words. Have the students chart their partner’s ideas. Take note of language to restate.

In an elementary classroom a teacher uses paint chip samples (from Home depot or Lowes!!) and asks the students to write a word then come up with harder academic words.

Have students write sentences using the hardest word.

|  |
| --- |
| ***help*** |
| ***assist*** |
| ***facilitate*** |