

Listening Circles

Overview: Reading and Listening Circles are very successful in encouraging students to engage more deeply with texts by approaching them from different perspectives and unpacking their different elements before repacking them with a better understanding of the whole ('bigger picture').

Aims

The aims are that students engage with and unpack lectures, and ultimately demonstrate an understanding and response to their content and the *Circle* process. An important aspect of Listening Circles is the development of learner engagement and autonomy; they should be student-led. However, within the procedure there is flexibility for the tutor to guide students towards appropriate lectures and to grade post-lecture activities.

Process

Listening circles should be run in a two-hour class and work best if run over a course / semester. [REDACTED]. After the lecture they hold a discussion to share their findings and discuss the key ideas in the lecture.

Student Roles

The students take notes around these areas while they watch the lecture and share their findings in the group discussion. Each week they change roles.

Language and Meaning	Background and Context	Structure and Organisation	Delivery
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Videos / lectures

Lectures can be on any academic topic but it is better if the students decide what to watch. Start off with short lectures of 5-10 minutes long and increase each week to a maximum of 30 minutes. [REDACTED]. It's better if they choose lectures that include visual slides for authenticity. Lectures can be shown to a whole a class or in individual groups using laptops and headphones. The lectures can be played twice.

Discussion

After the lecture, provide quiet time (10 minutes) for the students to organise their notes and think about what they want to say. [REDACTED]. Did the lecture meet your expectations from the title? Was there anything you would like to research further?

Listening Circles: Student sheet



Listening circle group:	4 students.
Time:	Every week.
Lecture Topic:	An academic subject with visual PPT (if possible). Each student in the group researches a lecture and pitches it to the group.
Lecture time:	6 – 30 minutes (start off with a short lecture and increase the time each week).
Roles:	
Discussion:	After the lecture, your group has a discussion where you discuss your findings and try to identify the main ideas together.

Roles

Language and Meaning	Background and Context	Structure and Organisation	Delivery
<p>Write down specific language terms.</p> <p>Write down any useful language.</p> <p></p> <p></p> <p>Note useful academic language.</p>	<p>Who is the speaker?</p> <p>What is their background?</p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p>What is their stance?</p> <p>Anything else that helps understand why this is important.</p>	<p>How is the lecture organised?</p> <p>Is there an outline?</p> <p>What are the key concepts?</p> <p></p> <p></p> <p>What's the conclusion?</p>	<p>Visuals?</p> <p></p> <p></p> <p>Signposting language?</p> <p>Speed?</p> <p>Accent?</p> <p>Anything else?</p>

Listening Circle Timeline

Follow this procedure for listening circles

1	Lecture	Choose a lecture / share lecture with group / class
2	Clarification	Clarify roles for that day in the group
3	Research	[Redacted]
4	Lecture	Watch and take notes on your specific role / main ideas
5	Organisation	Tidy / organise notes (think about what you will discuss)
6	Lecture	[Redacted]
7	Preparation	Individual time: analysis of your notes / extra research / dictionary work
8	Discussion	Discussion (share your findings and discuss the main ideas)

Discussion

Share your findings with your listening circle group. Take notes on what your listening circle members say. [Redacted]

- Were the **topic(s)** and **key points** as you expected?
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- Did you carry [Redacted] next time?

Possible Lecture Websites:

TED: <https://www.ted.com/>

Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com>

You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com>

Khan [Redacted]

Royal [Redacted]

Student sheet

Lecture name	

Your role:	

Discussion

Take notes from your listening circle group

Language and Meaning	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	Delivery

Discussion

- Were the **topic(s)** and **key points** as you expected?
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- Did you carry [Redacted] next time?

Group Planning Sheet

Group Members

Student 1	
Student 2	
Student 3	
Student 4	

Week	Lecture	Language & Meaning		Structure & organisation	Delivery
1	Lecture 1	1	2	3	4
2	Lecture 2	4	1	2	3
3	Lecture 3	3	4	1	2
4		2	3	4	1
5	Lecture 5	1	2	3	4
6	Lecture 6	4	1	2	
7	Lecture 7	3		1	2
8	Lecture 8	2	3	4	1
9	Lecture 9	1	2	3	4
10	Lecture 10	4	1	2	3

Lectures



Lecture 1:

Lecture 2:

Lecture 3:



Lecture 5:



Lecture 7:

Lecture 8:

Lecture 9:

Lecture 10: