

IV. Comprehending Information

- Understand descriptive or narrative monologues or presentations related to everyday, personally relevant topics or situations.

Task Listen to a short news report about transportation to determine advantages and disadvantages of a proposal.

Tool Student Comments - Self-assessment

The following example is based on the theme of transportation. The tool can be used for any activity or task.

1. Record a news item from CBC Radio about the issues with the Skytrain expansion. Make sure that the recording is no more than 5 minutes in length.
2. Develop questions for the news recording – make sure they are questions based on factual details, but also some questions on implied meanings.
3. Review the pros and cons of different modes of transportation. Be sure to pre-teach any specific difficult vocabulary you think needs to be covered before listening to the text.
4. Give the Ss a chance to listen to the recording at least 2 times.
5. Ss answer the questions. Go over the answers with the Ss, being sure to replay the section where the answer is located so Ss can hear it for themselves.
6. Organize Ss into groups. Instruct groups to list the advantages and disadvantages outlined in the news story and come to a consensus in favor of or against the proposal.
7. Have each group present to the class and have a whole class discussion.
8. Instruct Ss to write comments about the activity:
 - a. Was it easy/difficult?
 - b. What questions were most challenging?
 - c. What could Ss do to improve their performance next time?
 - d. What would be helpful to cover in future classes?



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I found this to be quite easy. The most challenging question to answer was about how the Mayor felt about the situation. I got most of the questions correct, so I don't think I need to improve. I think we need longer, more difficult listening exercises.