



Effective Strategies for English Language Learners During At-Home Learning

Strategy 1: Have Students Practice Speaking Skills Through Interviews

Provide students with these techniques for doing interviews:

- Avoid yes/no questions or questions that look for one-word answers.
- Use “big questions” that will get you answers with a great deal of detail.
- Start questions with these phrases:
 - Tell us about...
 - In what ways...
 - Tell us about your _____ moment in life.

...best ...worst ...scariest ...funniest ...most important ...proudest

- Tell us about your hopes for _____....

...the community ...your children ...the school ...the future

- When you get an *opinion*, *politely ask for reasons* to back it up.
 - What makes you say that?
 - Would you please elaborate on that?

***Students can record themselves giving the interview or write down the questions/answers. ***

Strategy 2: Ask Bigger Questions During Virtual Meeting Time

- Increase wait time.
 - Provide individual reflection time to gather thoughts and to jot them down.
 - Detox old habits. Get students to expect to be asked bigger questions, by not jumping in with the answer. Give students time to think through a question and then come back to them.
 - Offer students opportunities to interact with peers in pairs or small groups (these can be done in breakout rooms or on Google Docs ahead of time) before asking them to share responses with the whole class.
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Strategy 3: Have Students Do Quick-Writes to Help with Thought Processing

- Provide specific open-ended prompts for students to write about, or simply ask students to write about what they have learned.
 - Give students a certain amount of time to do their quick-writes.
 - For example, students can also be asked to summarize their understanding of the day’s presentations or lesson.
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