

The Olympics

This a fun, interactive series of 2 lessons based on the Olympics topic. It is suitable for age 7+ with flexibility for older students to have options/add on extension ideas.

This first lesson looks into types of Olympic events and how the athletes feel in the run up to competing. We use guessing games as a fun way in to the lesson and then move into simple event tableaux through group work, interviewing and then expressing the activities on paper as drawing and writing.

To enhance the activities you could use some music in the background. Here are two free music sites for you to look at :

<https://freesfx.co.uk/Category/Competition-Sports/604>

<https://pixabay.com/music/search/sports%20music/>

The Video Lesson

1. Your True-False Event Experience – Listening and Watching, Visualising, Talking, Guessing

We introduce the lesson by thinking about Olympic Events and which ones we might have taken part in as athletes based on our experience of sporting activities. We add a touch of humour in here as to the likelihood of us ever being athletes but prompt the students to think about what events they might take part in. For example If they can swim well then that might be a likely event for them.

We ask them to close their eyes and visualise this and also to think about an event that they currently have no experience in. We then turn this into a fun game which has a true or false outcome.

Over To You - The students can now play this game whereby the teacher asks someone to stand up and say the name of a sport or event that they SAY they already have experience in, hoping that the others in the class will believe them – however they might not be telling the truth. The others have to decide – you could ask for a show of hands on the truth of the assertions.

Teachers can take a turn of this game as well and find out what their class thinks of them as athlete material!

2. Guess The Event – Listening and Watching, Tableau, Group Work, Discussion

Now we prompt the students to think more about the Olympic events and what they look like. We demonstrate a couple of still images/tableaux for them to guess our events.

Over To You – Teachers can now prompt by whispering to the students in groups of 4 or 5 to make similar tableaux. They can practise quickly creating these tableaux from a relaxed position. which they can then show to the class to guess the activities.

You could play music behind this group work activity to set up the scenes.

3. Interviewing The Athletes – Listening and Watching, Paired Improvisation

We now talk about what the athletes will be feeling before their event takes place. We demonstrate interviewing an athlete to explore their emotions in the build-up to the event.

Over To You – In pairs the students can now do the interviews and can switch roles after a while. You can watch a few of these and invite feedback after they have had a practice.

4. Draw Athlete Character With Thought Bubbles -Moving Activity 3 Into Literacy, Drawing & Writing

Picking up on the previous activity, the students can now use their pre-event emotions to draw their athlete character and insert thought-bubbles, writing the emotions inside them.

5. Present Your Words With A Partner – Presentation, Paired Activity

We suggest presenting the Individual Drawing and Writing Activity as a pair. The students will hand their writing to a partner to read out while they take up the pose of their athlete.

You can watch some of these and give feedback.

Literacy Options/Extensions – For older end students

Students could write reports about the athletes interviewed, taking some notes maybe during the interviews to remember the details. They will be writing about someone else here and not their own athlete character.

Older students could write extended pieces about their feelings before their event and add in details of past experiences, good and bad.