

## Talk Topics

## Trend task

**Approach:** Team

**Level:** Year 8

**Focus:** Giving an interesting talk on a topic.

**Resources:** Set of 12 topic cards, egg timer.

**Questions/instructions:**

This activity is called Talk Topics. I will give each of you 3 cards with talk topics written on them. Think about the one you would like to talk about, then when it's your turn, try to give the most interesting talk you can think of. Try to keep the others in the team really interested in what you are saying to them.

I would like each person to talk for about 3 minutes. We have an egg timer here to let us see when 3 minutes are up.

Here are the cards, look at the cards and choose one topic to talk about.

**Shuffle the cards. Give each student 3 cards. Tell them the order they will speak, then ask the first student to start.**

A TV advert that I really like.

My best times at school.

A really good TV programme.

My favourite sport or hobby.

Me and my friends.

How to make a delicious sandwich.

Me and my family.

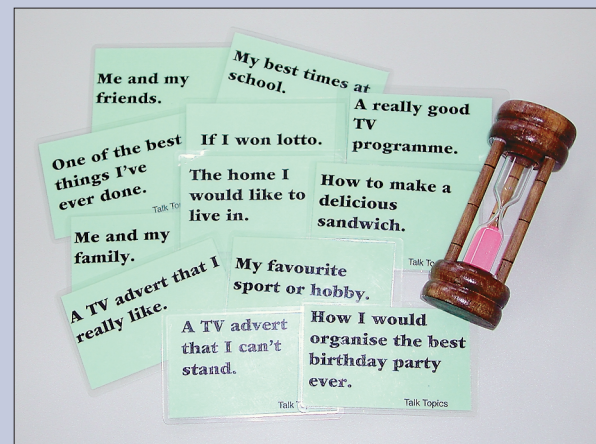
How I would organise the best birthday party ever.

A TV advert that I can't stand.

If I won lotto.

One of the best things I've ever done.

The home I would like to live in.



		% responses
		2000 ('96)
		year 8
<b>Relevance of content to topic</b>	strong	72 (73)
	moderate	20 (23)
	weak	8 (4)
<b>Coherence of presentation</b> <i>does it hang together?</i>	strong	36 (29)
	moderate	46 (54)
	weak	18 (17)
<b>Degree of interest stimulated</b>	strong	26 (24)
	moderate	48 (45)
	weak	26 (31)
<b>Speech clarity</b>	strong	56 (51)
	moderate	37 (42)
	weak	7 (7)
<b>Total score:</b>	7-8	31 (26)
	5-6	39 (41)
	3-4	19 (24)
	0-2	11 (9)

**Commentary:**

Most of the year 8 students selected relevant material for their talk, but only about half of them were judged to speak clearly, a third of them to present a coherent talk, and a quarter of them to stimulate interest in the topic. Slightly more students succeeded well in 2000 than in 1996. The year 4 task *Talk Time* (previous page) used the same procedures but different topics.