

TED-talks on the Sustainable Development Goals of the UN – Ideas for the teacher

Definition: TED Talks are short presentations (5 to 10 minutes) about a certain subject. These presentations have to be interesting and well-structured.



Aims: The students train their argumentative and presentation skills.

For our project the subject will be fixed by the "Sustainable Development Goals for the United Nations". There are 17 goals on the website of the UN

(<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org>) going from social to environmental problems. First the students have to discover these goals, reflect them and prepare one of the topics for a TED talk. On this way the students are forced to deal with recent and future problems.

Procedure:

1. Present the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the UN to the students (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org>) and talk about their meaning. Make the students choose one goal to do some research on it.

2. Present a convincing TED talk by a young speaker, for example Laura Singer's plea for leading a zero-waste life (<http://www.tedxteen.com/talks/why-i-live-a-zero-waste-life-lauren-singer>) and make students collect criteria for a good TED-talk (content, language, body language).

3. Tell the students to prepare a talk about their chosen goal. The students may work alone or in groups. Tell them to...
 - a) ... find a *throughline* or *topic* for the talk ("How I successfully reduced waste"; "What everyone can do to make the world a more peaceful place"; etc.)
 - b) ... structure arguments in a *line of arguments* or *narration* (= a story with a simple linear structure that makes them easy to follow) and find a good conclusion.
 - c) ... prepare the talk and think about good strategies to convince the audience (humor, examples, anecdotes...) and present to present their draft to each other.
 - d) ... add notes about stressing of words and breaks; **the talk should not be longer than 5 minutes**
 - e) ... present their talks to each other, choose the best talks and record them on video.

4. Upload the videos onto the project website .



TED talks on the Sustainable Development Goals - Student worksheet

TED talks are short, medium or long presentations and speeches given by thousands of people all over the world on thousands of topics. All ,official‘ TED talks are recorded on the website www.ted.com where they can be browsed by topic or by speaker.

Your assignment is to create your very own TED talk on an idea that you find worth sharing on the basis of one of the 17 *Sustainable Development Goals of the UN*“. The best three TED talks will be recorded.

Step 1: Check the website on the sustainable development goals (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org>). Choose one of the goals you want to work on and find your idea. What would you like to share with the world?



Step 2: Do some research on the chosen goal.

Step 3: Develop a throughline. A throughline is a catchy, unexpected statement that sums up all the main arguments of your talk. *E.g.: "I went green – and it changed my life"*

-> Ask yourself the following questions:

- Is it a topic I am really interested in?
- Does it make people interested?
- Will it make a difference to the listeners to learn more about this?
- Do I know enough about the topic?

→ Write your throughline. What idea(s) do you want to talk about?

- In 15-20 words sum up the main idea of your talk.
- Present these to a partner. Will he/she be interested in learning more about the topic?

Your throughline: _____

Step 4: Develop your storyline. Imagine your talk as a story you would like to tell your audience. How can you make the people interested and make them listen to you?

Introduction:

First argument:

Second argument:

Conclusion (what do you want everyone to remember?):

Step 5: Turn your script into a moving TED talk. Remember the criteria for a good talk. Underline or highlight terms you want to explain to make sure everyone can follow.

Step 6: Practice performing your speech and present your speeches in groups of 4-5 and choose the one you like best. Among these, we will pick the top 3 talks for recording (filming) and public presentation.

