

Nick's musical icebreaker

Level: All levels

Ages: all ages

Time 25 minutes

Materials: CD player & CDs or computer with decent sound system

Purpose: To break the ice in a different way with new classes Description

Nick Perkins is Pearson Longman's Academic Development Manager for Latin America.

Method:

Step one – the teacher prepares 30-second excerpts from their top 5 songs or pieces of music and downloads them without gaps and then prepares for display a list of the names of the pieces, artists, possibly dates if known.

Step two – the teacher plays the music to the class.

Step three – the teacher then displays the details and briefly explains why each piece is so important to him/her.

Step four – the teacher then invites the class individually to list their top 3 and write two or three sentences explaining their choices.

Step five – pairwork follows with each class member telling their partner what their list contains and the reasons for the choices.

Step six – a very learner-centred follow-up is to invite the class – say, once a week – to take turns to start a class by preparing and delivering steps one to three.

Anticipated problems: None – other than the obvious that some age groups can sometimes be scathing about each other's taste in music so strict rules relating to respect and tolerance may need to be established and enforced.