***Progetto Lucca***

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FASE 3 - ATTIVITÀ 4

**An argument over a much debated issue**

Recently Italy has been involved in debates and legislative procedures against genre violence. Students too have reacted to this issue, although with different attitudes, perceptions and views. It has been decided, therefore, to hold a class debate to raise interest, encourage and compare differences of opinions, and allow students to develop a discussion about what they think of this hot issue and why.

Students have been divided into three groups: the first claims that prevention is the best means to avoid stalking, violence and killings. Thesecond maintains that detention is the only possible solution.

The third group does not take sides on the issue, they are supposed to watch the debate with an observation grid analysing what arguments are put forward by the students involved in the discussion and how the interaction is realized. They will also observe the verbal and non verbal strategies acted out to convey and justify the different points of view. All mates who cut in on the discussion are requested to take turns using politeness forms and cultural conventions for breaking into the debate and yielding the floor in turns.

The first and second group will be given time to gather the necessary information and find out for or against arguments on the Internet. The teacher will set the contest and the debate will start. The observers will report back how the turntaking conventions worked, and how cooperation and compensation strategies contributed to back the different opinions.

Here are some tips provided by the teacher as a guidance to break in during the argument exchanges:

* state an opinion: The way I see it, If you ask me, As far as I'm concerned...;
* ask an opinion: What's your idea? How do you feel about that? What do you think? Do you agree?
* express agreement: You are absolutely right, No doubt about it, That's exactly how I feel, That's so true, That's for sure;
* express disagreement: I don’t think so, I disagree, I totally disagree, I’m afraid you are wrong;
* interrupt: Can I add something here? Sorry to interrupt, but…, If I might add something here…, Can I add something here?

##### The activity is designed to combine learning value with interest and genuine involvement in social up-to-date matters. It suits classes of B2/C1 level. Almost all steps of the activity can be student led during one hour verbal interaction.

The whole performance is video recorded, so that the video might be analysed and tell teacher and students what sort of interaction and learning/teaching processes were going on during the debate. The video can provide a detailed and precise picture of the classroom methodology carried on in the specific context of the debate and reveal if the discussion was successful or unsuccessful and why it succeeded or failed.