



Tips for Class Discussion, by Señor Jordan

Remember: Just talking with kids, gleaning answers, keeps discussion alive as long as it's interesting.

The important part here is to practice 1st, 2nd, and 3rd person forms with the class. The way we do that is by asking questions that build interest and then report back to class. I personally like to give a quiz after a discussion. It could include yes/no questions and maybe a few who/what/where (one word answer) questions. And once students have the language ability, a *por qué* question. The important part for me is not really the quiz, but building the expectation that, in class, all we talk about is important.

My suggestions (take them or leave them):

1. Ask question to class
2. When student raises hand, rephrase question in *tú* form
3. Coach students into answering in full sentences to practice I, you, s/he, they forms
 - a. Write on the board if they aren't confident with it yet
 - i. I recommend one color for Spanish and a different color underneath for English
 - ii. I also make sure to point out once in awhile in English: "in a real conversation, would a person have to answer like that? (NOOO.) Then why do I want you to say it in a complete sentence? (TO PRACTICE.) Right! And the more you hear it and use it, the better it will stay in your brain."
4. Show interest in what they are saying
5. Report back to class in Spanish: *Clase...* [student name] _____
6. Have class react in some way by maybe saying, «*Oooh*» or «*Qué interesante*» or «*Fascinante*» or anything else you use to help them show they understand.

7. Ask follow-up questions. Use my class discussion questions provided in the next section as a guide. Or better yet, come up with your own! I prefer to live in the moment with students and if a question organically comes up and we don't have to write a LOT of new words on the board, I'm going to ask it. So please don't feel like you have to use EVERY question. Some questions might work well in one class while another works well in another class. For me the important part is staying in the language with my students, learning about them, creating together and slowly pushing them in their understanding of Spanish.
8. Also the purpose of conversation in class is to push the concept of $i + 1$. This is the level that someone is at in their language ability plus a little bit more. If the language is too easy, find a way to throw in a new word or two. But repetition is the most important part of what we do. Repeat things (verb forms; words) in new contexts to build the mental representation of the language in their heads.