

**Teachers Retreat June 2008**  
**Content-specific and Skills-focused Advanced Classes**

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We talked about trying to introduce "real people" to the students as additional research and discussion material. One idea was to visit the BBC website featuring stories by ordinary people. I looked for it and I think this is the site we talked about:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/stoke/insidelives/>

The stories are short and there is a Quicktime listening to go with the text. I checked out a couple and the language seems manageable for the students. Lots of human interest stories.

Another idea was to look at KIVA.org. It has short profiles and pictures of entrepreneurs who want micro-loans.

Also: Teaching students how to avoid plagiarism by using task-based activities to practice citing sources.

And: Presentation skills practice. How to use key words on a poster to trigger what you want to say. Put a sentence on the board and erase bit by bit till only key words remain. Students see the key word and remember the idea

We also all had a look at Jamelea's class' videos. Some of them are fantastic!