Role play

What is it?
Role playing involves students taking on roles different to themselves and pretending to be that character or playing themselves in an imaginary context.

How does it work?
Students explore a scenario by playing a role or context.
Students are usually provided with the characteristics and goals of the role they are asked to play and then interact with each other. eg. One person might play an angry parent and another person may play the child's teacher at a parent teacher interview.

Or students are asked to imagine themselves in an imaginary context. eg. At the airport, in a job interview, in a court case as a defendant

Note: Some students may find role playing difficult because of their own background. Be aware too that not all students will want to perform in front of the class. Ask for volunteers or get the students to work in groups.

How can it be used?
- Act out a scene that might happen in the workplace for your discipline. eg. a court room or a social work meeting
- Using a photograph or an object as a prompt, act out the people’s lives
- Provide roles and scenarios and roleplay multiple responses to the situation
- Get students to freeze during a role play and ask them how they are feeling

Using technology, students could use Skype or Collaborate to roleplay.

Resources
- Contexts and character descriptions and/or goals for different roles
- http://serc.carleton.edu/introgeo/roleplaying/howto.html

Why use it?
Role play is fun and memorable. It helps students to imagine different scenarios on in a safe environment.