

Philosophical Chairs

AVID Dialogue Strategy
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Introduction

- Format for classroom discussion
- Different from debate & Socratic Seminars
 - ◆ Not dependent on text
 - ◆ Focus on central statement/topic
 - ◆ Symbolic movement
- Consistent format grade level to grade level
 - ◆ Differentiate by topic and teacher involvement

Goal

The development of students' abilities to give careful attention to other students' comments and to engage in dialogue with one another to gain a greater understanding of the topic presented.

Standards

Aligns with SC College and Career Readiness
Anchor Standards for Inquiry and
Collaboration.

Pre and Post Discussion reading and writing
activities extend standards alignment.

WICOR

- Inherently supports inquiry and collaboration
- Easily incorporate writing, organization, and reading activities
 - ◆ pre and post-writing reflections
 - ◆ required textual support
 - ◆ pre-reading/research

Classroom Set-Up

- Basic set-up - two sides to every story
 - ◆ Two groups facing each other
 - ◆ Students to pick a side (pro vs. con)

- Modifications
 - ◆ A small third section in the middle for the undecided
 - Can make the kids in here choose after they have heard each side speak twice. Then they have to explain why they were swayed to join either side.

How it Works

- Present students with a topic , topic should polarize students
- Encourage students to choose a side, they literally choose a side to sit on
- Students have an opportunity to make a statement or respond
- As students change their mind they change sides

Rules of Engagement

1. Understand the topic
2. Listen carefully
3. Wait to be recognized before you speak; only one person speaks at a time.
4. First summarize the previous speaker's argument before you respond.
5. Once you have spoken, wait until three other people on your side speak before you speak again.
6. Address the ideas, not the person stating them.
7. Keep an open mind and move to the other side or the undecided section.
8. Support the class by maintaining order and helping the discussion to progress.

Helpful Tips

- Make the statement and rules visible
- Start with 2 sections (pro/con)
- Be patient, Be persistent, and Be present
 - ◆ Efficiency and effectiveness will develop
 - ◆ Practice makes perfect
 - ◆ Moderate discussion
- Measure success by movement
 - ◆ Movement = Change of mind = Engaged

Modifications

Speed Philosophical Chairs

- students come up with the statements as a bell-ringer activity
- look through them to see which ones you want to do
- Then you give like a 5 minute time limit to each topic and you just keep pumping through the questions and discussion.
- The teacher could come up with the statements, too, but the ownership of the kids hearing their statement picked helps with leadership and pride in learning.

In Action

