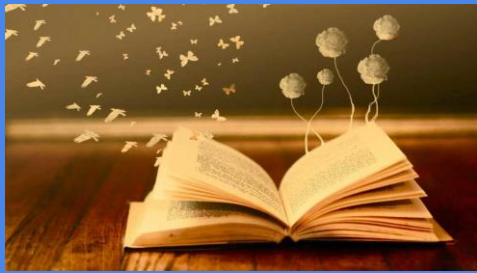




UNEX Understanding What We Read



Title: Circle of Discussion

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Title:

Keywords: *to be used after in search function on the website* #discussion #circle of discussion #comprehension

Duration: 10-20 minutes. The teacher sets the time.

Description:

This activity is a good way to make the student discuss and thereby comprehend of a given text.

Objectives:

Please list the objectives you want to achieve (short and long term)

1. To have the students verbally discuss a text
2. To ensure that the students have comprehended a given text.
3. The student will throughout the activity develop their argumentation skills.

Activity(ies) (Stages):

Detailed description of the exercises, activities used as a part of the methodology.

In class you work with a text – reading, listening, watching. To work with the comprehension of the text following methods can be used after reading the text.

Divide the students into two groups – there should be the same number of students in each group. If the numbers are uneven the teacher can step in and participate.

Group one is asked to form a circle with their faces turned outwards and their backs turned towards the middle of the circle.

Group two is asked to form a circle around the circle of group one – each student facing a student in the inner circle.

Method 1 – The teacher formulates a question

The teacher has prepared a question about the text that can be discussed. When the circles are formed the teacher asks the question, says "go", and the students start discussing the question in pairs.

The teacher should set a time for this (approx. 1 minute.)

When the time is up the outer circle takes a step to the right – making each student in group two face a new student in group one.

The teacher says “go” and the new pair discuss the same question.

This continues for 10 minutes – or how long the teacher has decided.

Method 2 – The teacher formulates questions for the students in group one

The teacher has prepared some questions about the text – each question is cut out on a separate piece of paper. These should be questions that can be discussed.

Each student in “groups one” is given a question.

When the teachers says “go” the student with the question reads it out load and the pair starts discussing the question. The teacher should set a time for this (approx. 1 minute.)

When the time is up the outer circle takes a step to the right – making each student in “group two” face a new student in “group one”.

The teacher says “go” and the new pair discuss the next question.

This continues for 10-20 minutes – or how long the teacher has decided.

Method 3 – The students formulate their own question

All of the students are asked to formulate a question about the text. They write down their question on a small piece of paper.

When the circles are formed the teacher says “go”, and the students start asking each other their questions in pairs.

The teacher should set a time for this (approx. 1 minute.)

When the time is up the outer circle takes a step to the right – making each student in “group two” face a new student in “group one”.

The teacher says “go” and the new pair discuss the next question.

This continues for 10-20 minutes – or how long the teacher has decided.

Tips for trainers

This method can also be used with questions that are not intended for discussion, but more for testing the student's comprehension of a text.

Depending on the grade and the academic level the students could be encouraged to formulate more analytical questions.

Letting both group one and two have questions can extend the method.

List of resources, materials etc.

Method 1 or 2: The teacher should prepare a/some questions.

Method 2 or 3:

Small pieces of paper (could be post-its)

Method 3:

Small pieces of paper (could be post-its)

Pencils

Evaluation/Feedback

Are the students motivated to do this activity?	Yes	No
Are the students able to answer each other's questions?	Yes	No