

Cooperative Learning: Focused Listening



Description

This activity encourages students to consider a topic independently before joining with a group to listen to the ideas of others and create a group definition for the topic.

Materials

- Sheet of paper for each participant
- Pen/pencil to record responses
- Chart paper for each group of 4 to 5
- Marker to record responses

Teacher Preparation

Prepare questions for discussion.

Procedure

1. Ask participants to create a list of words that describe something. Examples include: “What is economics?” “What is personal finance?” “What is *The American Dream*?”
2. Instruct participants to create their own lists or descriptions, perhaps even sketches of their ideas.
3. Ask participants to get together in small groups (4-5 participants) to share and discuss their lists. Instruct them that they may agree to select one or through discussion create their own definition.
4. Facilitate a class discussion, allowing each group to share.

Sample “focused listening” activity with Grade 6			
5. What does “environmentally friendly” mean?			
Student 1	Student 2	Student 3	Student 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - no littering - something causes less pollution - doesn't hurt animals - doesn't cause side effects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - recyclable - biodegradable - organic - doesn't harm the environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - doesn't pollute the planet - doesn't give off harmful gases - can be reduced, reused or recycled - waste products are properly disposed of - is energy efficient 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - made of natural products - doesn't harm fish or other water life - doesn't harm the ozone layer
<p>Group definition of “environmentally friendly”: Something is environmentally friendly when it does not harm the environment, the animals and the people and does not create extra garbage.</p>			