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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student 1</th>
<th>Student 2</th>
<th>Student 3</th>
<th>Student 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- no littering</td>
<td>- recyclable</td>
<td>- doesn’t pollute the planet</td>
<td>- made of natural products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- something causes less pollution</td>
<td>- biodegradable</td>
<td>- doesn’t give off harmful gases</td>
<td>- doesn’t harm fish or other water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- doesn’t hurt animals</td>
<td>- organic</td>
<td>- can be reduced, reused or</td>
<td>life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- doesn’t cause side effects</td>
<td>- doesn’t harm the environment</td>
<td>recycled</td>
<td>- doesn’t harm the ozone layer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.