

ESU TEACHING RESOURCE



Cross The Circle If...

This resource can be used for the development of oracy skills in their own right, or as part of any lesson to help students to consolidate their learning. The generic themes and ideas used in this activity plan can easily be replaced with topical lists or sets of prompts that suit your lesson content.

Overview

This activity introduces students to debating and argumentation in a low-pressure environment. It encourages the use of reasoning to justify points of view, and can easily be made more or less challenging to suit a group's needs.



Objectives

- To practise giving reasons to support opinions
- To practise agreeing and disagreeing with others in an appropriate way

Task

Students should form a circle. If seated, there should be one fewer seats than the number of participants. The facilitator can start - standing in the middle, give a statement, starting "Cross the circle if..." that students can either agree or disagree with. As the rules are being learnt, you may wish to start with simple verifiable facts like "... if you have brown hair" or "... if your name starts with a letter in the first half of the alphabet". If a student agrees with the statement, they should stand up and 'cross the circle', finding a new seat. The facilitator should take a seat. The student left standing then begins the next round with a statement of their own.

Variations -

- 1) The facilitator can continue to give the statements, with students simply swapping seats during each round. This might be preferable where the activity is being used to consolidate students' learning on a particular subject/topic, rather than as a warm-up activity for class or club.
- 2) To run this game without the need for movement, simply find an alternative method for students to show their opinion, and to signal that they have "swapped" (i.e. found someone else who agrees with them). For example, students could have two cards of different colours (e.g. yellow and red). If they agree with a statement, they should hold up the yellow card. When they make eye contact with someone else who agrees, they hold up the red card.

