



SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

ROTATION STATIONS (CAROUSEL) STRATEGY

Strategy Overview

This strategy allows students to work in groups to show what they know or express their opinions about themes or ideas within a current unit of study. It works well for accessing prior knowledge or reviewing material. It's especially beneficial to kinesthetic learners.

Suggested Grade Level

Upper elementary to high school

Estimated Time to Complete

Within one class period

Objectives

The purpose of this activity is both to meet the needs of kinesthetic learners and to review. Students will

- understand the responsibilities of various roles within the team, either assigned or determined by the group (e.g., reporter, recorder, information gatherer, leader, timekeeper);
- orally paraphrase accurately ideas and information presented by others.

Materials Needed

- Poster board or butcher paper
- Pens or markers
- Tape to hold up poster or butcher paper

Strategy Procedures

1. The teacher posts various poster boards around the room (butcher paper works, too). Each poster has an over-arching idea or theme on it (i.e. common good, justice, equal protection etc.). Each poster will represent a station; a good number of posters should be equal to about four to five people per station. For example, a class of thirty should have six stations. The teacher should leave a marker or pen at each station. The students are separated as equally as possible to each poster.
2. One student from the group will write down as much information as the group can come up with about their idea or theme. The teacher will keep time. After a set time—for example, two to five minutes is a good time limit—the teacher says “rotate.” The students will then rotate clockwise to the next station (poster).

3. The students will read the idea or theme for this poster. A new writer from the group will be selected as a writer for this poster. After the group has read what the previous group had added to this poster, the new group will add their comments or thoughts about the idea or theme, and they can also add to the previous group's thoughts and ideas. The teacher will continue to call "rotate" until all groups have rotated to each station.
4. Once the final rotation is complete, the student holding the marker or pen at each station will remain standing, while all the other classmates take a seat. The teacher will call on each poster group one at a time for a report. If the stations are a theme then the teacher should start at the most logical starting point and continue until the logical conclusion. If the stations are not a theme, then the teacher can start at any poster. Once a poster has been selected the student still standing should report the idea or theme, then read each comment.
5. After the final report has happened, the teacher should debrief the activity by asking about what the students assessed about their activity.