



SAVE THE LAST WORD FOR ME

Activity Description

As the teacher reads aloud (from *We the People: The Citizen & the Constitution, Foundations of Democracy*, or newspaper articles about a selected *Project Citizen* public policy), students write down a passage that had meaning to them. They will discuss other students' choices and their own.

Suggested Grade Level

Upper elementary to high school

Estimated Time to Complete

Within one class period

Objectives

Students will be able to

- listen to a passage and give their opinion;
- learn listening skills, learn to take turns, and learn patience;
- demonstrate critical listening skills essential for comprehension, evaluation, problem solving, and task completion;
- participate in work teams and group discussions.

Materials Needed

- Story, poem or article
- Paper to write down student selections

Activity Procedures

1. Divide students into groups of three. Label each member of each group as A, B, or C. Students will be instructed that the teacher will read a section of a book or poem. Teachers are encouraged to select readings from the primary sources found in *We the People: The Citizen & the Constitution*, read the story activities from *Foundations of Democracy*, or articles from newspapers about the selected public policy that students have selected for their *Project Citizen* assignment.
2. As the teacher is reading aloud, the students must write down a passage of the book or poem that had meaning to them. The teacher will read a passage of a book or poem. For Round One, Student A will tell the part of the book that spoke to him or her, but not comment on it.

Student B will tell how he or she felt about Student A's selection, then Student C will comment on Student A's selection. Finally Student A will report on his or her selection. No one may comment on A's selection after Student A has reported.

3. For Round Two, Student B will tell the part of the book that spoke to him or her, but not comment on it. Student C will tell how he or she felt about Student B's selection, then Student A will comment on Student B's selection. Finally Student B will comment on his or her own selection, but no one will make a comment after student B about his or her selection. Round Three will have Student C reporting on his or her selection. Student A will comment about the selection, followed by Student B. Finally Student C will comment on his or her own selection, but no one will comment after Student C about his or her selection.