

3 Four Corner Discussion

This discussion activity challenges students to take a position on a topic and defend it. At the same time, it requires them to listen to the opinions of others and be willing to change their position.

Instructions:

1. Write a statement on the board. For example: The American Colonists were justified in their anger over the Boston Tea Party.
2. Have students choose one of the following responses and explain their reasoning in writing.
 - I strongly agree because...
 - I somewhat agree because...
 - I strongly disagree because...
 - I somewhat disagree because...
3. Ask students to go to the corner of the room where a placard matching their response is located. (Strongly agree, somewhat agree, strongly disagree, and somewhat disagree)
4. Once in the appropriate corner, students share their opinions and come up with a position statement to present to the entire class. One person in the group records that position statement.
5. Each corner's position statement is shared with the entire class without comments. Students are then allowed to change corners if their opinion has been changed.
6. Facilitate a discussion between the different corners allowing students to question and debate one another. Students may move to a different corner anytime their opinion has been changed.
7. Debrief both the content and process of the discussion.