



Discussion Strategies Model

Is about ...

Discussion Strategies model is about involving students to share their ideas about a common topic that can also be effectively combined with group work and cooperative learning.

Main idea

Theory

The purpose of the model is so that groupwork combined with cooperative learning may guide students discussions so that they share their personal ideas about a common topic. The purpose for the student learning in this model is so that students may discuss their individual ideas on topics and create a broader more open minded view on topics and understand others point of views.

Main idea

Planning

Identifying Topics: Choose a topic that requires discussion and is controversial or allows for differences in interpretation.
Specify Learning Objectives: Pick a topic that you will want students to think about in a more deeper and analytical way. When students offer their interpretations ask them to provide evidence for their opinions. These discussions should contribute to students social development.
Developing Student Knowledge: Discussions should always follow lessons that focus on acquiring a deeper knowledge and understanding of the topic. Having some prior knowledge is necessary to have successful discussions.
Establishing Structure: Effective discussions are highly organized. Before letting students discuss, the teacher should get students to think about what points they want to discuss about the topic, divide the students into sides or teams so that they have to think about a different angle, and then divide those sides or teams into groups so that they could share their ideas in a more concentrated area.

Main idea

Implementing

Introduction: The teacher should present an issue and discussion starter and provide a focus for the discussion then activate their background knowledge by teaching a lesson based on what they want the students to discuss.
Exploration: Teachers should promote student involvement and a deeper understanding of the topic by allowing students to explore the topic, clarify their thinking, and letting them take a position so that they may develop critical thinking and social development. They do this by letting students share their perspectives on the issues with one another.
Closure: Teachers should summarize the major points of discussion by clarifying the points that were agreed and disagreed upon so that students don't leave the class being unsure about what they did that day.

Main idea

Assessing/Modifying/ Motivating

Assessing: Essay items will be the most common and traditional way to assess the students' understanding of the content and simultaneously their critical thinking abilities.
Modifying: Groupwork, cooperative learning, and discussions can be used with young children if they're carefully organized by providing clear directions, and use familiar materials, such as a recently read story
Motivating: Cooperative learning and discussions capitalize on students social nature. By capitalizing on the motivational effects of social interaction and involvement this increases students motivation.

So what? What is important to understand about this?

The Discussion Strategies Model is important to understand so that teachers may gauge what students think about specific topics and guide their understanding so that they may be more open minded and accepting of not only new topics, but others differing opinions on those topics.