

Four Corners Thinking

Sample Statements

- History is best taught in chronological order.
- Praise should be given more generously to struggling students.
- Multiple-choice tests should be used regularly in classroom teaching in order to prepare students for standardized testing.
- All students want to learn.

STEPS:

1. Write provocative and controversial statements which reflect big ideas of your current lessons.
2. Students respond by moving to one of the 4 corners (i.e.; Agree, Strongly Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree). Post signs in your corners.
3. Once there, they share their thinking with one other person.
4. Optional: Undecided students can sit it out, and raise a hand if they are ready to take a stand.
5. During the Open Forum, students can change their thinking and ask to shift corners with a raised hand.
6. Open forum is run by you at first and later a student. You are to give each corner a chance to share thinking. No debating here. Students should be encouraged to bring supporting text or evidence to support their thinking.