

Discussion As A Tool for Classroom

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Classroom Discussion: Learning Through Language

“No matter what the subject, the people who read it, write it, and talk it are the ones who learn it best.”

-NCTE Position Statement on Learning through Language

Discussion



- The word ‘discuss’ has been derived from the Latin root ‘discutere’, which means to shake or strike. Thus ‘discussion’ refers to thoroughly shaking up the subject, that is, examining it thoroughly to reach a conclusion.
- A discussion is an activity of sitting and talking about a specific subject.

Discussion Method



- A discussion method is the means by which people share experiences, ideas and attitudes.
- Discussion method enable to engage in an orderly verbal interchange and to express thoughts on a particular subject.



1. Discussion is the most common to middle school teacher.
2. Discussion helps students to grow physically
3. Reporting is a type of discussion
4. Group discussion can be classified into two
5. Bloom's developed the process of questioning to develop higher level of thinking

Characteristics Discussion Method



- Ensure maximum participation.
- Students have the opportunity to criticize and evaluate.
- Logical and meaningful criticism should be accepted.
- Students should anchor the discussion themselves.
- Keeping teachers as guide.
- Teacher selects the topic only with the help of students.

Discussion Method cont...



- Discussion involves **two-way communication** between participants.
- In the classroom situation a teacher and students all **participate** in discussion.
- During discussion, the teacher spends some time listening while the students spend sometimes talking.
- The discussion is, therefore, a more **active learning experience** for the students than the lecture.

Appropriate use of discussion method



- Discussion method is used in areas in which students already have some knowledge or experience, discussion may be used to develop the main points to be covered in a lesson
- Students can draw on their experience to contribute to the discussion.
- All subject except mathematics, art, music, dance can be taught.
- Discussion may also be used, following a lecture or demonstration, to help trainees apply what they have learned.

TYPES OF CLASSROOM DISCUSSION

- Small Groups
- Buzz Groups
- Talking Circle / Word Wheels
- Talking Tickets
- Think-Pair-Share
 - Problem
 - Think
 - Share
- Write Around
- Guided Discussion Method
 - Objectives
 - Introduction
 - Discussion
 - Summary
 - Conclusion
- Reflective Discussion Method

ORGANIZING THE DISCUSSION

1. Teacher as a Facilitator

- Creating Classroom Community
- Accommodate Multiple Learning Styles:
- Remain Objective: Focus on Student Contributions:
- Be Honest: Criticize Constructively

2. Stay on Track

- Plan “Goal-Oriented” Discussions
- Ask “Goal-Oriented” Questions
- Avoid Being Derailed
- Deal Irrelevant Questions and Comment
- Refocus Attention: Write to Learn

ORGANIZING THE DISCUSSION

- 5. Suggestions to Organize Classroom Discussion
 - Give the students a chance to be prepared for discussion
 - Give yourself plenty of preparation time before class
 - Ask questions at a variety of taxonomic levels during class
 - Provide encouragement and praise for correct answers
 - Occasionally the use of a blind quiz will help to encourage class review
 - Maintain a warm, outgoing, friendly atmosphere in class
 - Summarizing the main points

RULES FOR DISCUSSION

- Explain the ground rules for participation.
- Ask students what makes an excellent class discussion.
- Give pointers on how to participate in class discussion.
- Ask students to think of some principles for discussion, which they think everyone should follow.
- Teacher should write all of these suggested principles where every student can see
- them. If suggestions are not obtained from students, teacher can suggest some of
- the following principles for the students:
- Pay attention to the participant who is speaking
- Only one participant speaks at a time
- Before saying something, raise hand
- When someone is speaking, don't interrupt
- In case of disagreement with a response, be careful that there should be criticism on
- the response, not on the person
- Don't mock on the person who is responding during discussion;
- Give confidence to every student to participate

RULES FOR DISCUSSION

- Copy the list of rules neatly and hang it where participants can refer, add, or make changes to it as necessary.
- Set the norms for discussion in the first week of class.
- Conduct think-pair-shares on specific issues.
- Use small group assignments and have a group scribe or reporter from each group
- share with whole class.
- Divide class into teams for informal “debates” (teams prepare outside of class or
- one class period prior to the debate).
- Use concentric circles to stimulate discussion.
- Have students share their individual concept maps in groups and write a group
- concept map.
- Give students a complex question to consider. Have each write on this question for
- 5-15 minutes. Then discuss in small groups or with the whole class.
- Divide the material among students or groups of students. Require each group to
- teach their peers the material they have studied.

PREPARATION AND CONDUCT OF DISCUSSION METHOD

STEPS

1. Orientation
2. Engagement
3. Debrief





The Discussion Method

- Classroom goals:
 - Questions that explore **controversial issues (with no simple answer)** increase knowledge and encourage deeper understanding of the various sides presented.
 - Discussions addressing **issues from the affective domain** are more effective in changing attitudes, values, and behaviors.

USES

- To develop Imaginative solutions to problems.
- To stimulate thinking and Interest and to secure student participation.
- To emphasis, main teaching points.
- To supplement lectures, reading, or laboratory exercises.
- To determine how well student understands concepts and principles.
- To prepare students for application of theory of procedure.
- To summaries clarify points or review.

ADVANTAGES

- Increase students Interest.
- Increase student's acceptance and commitments.
- Utilise student knowledge and experience.
- Results in more permanent learning because el high degree of student participation.

DIS-ADVANTAGES

- Require highly skilled instructor.
- Requires preparation by student.
- Limits content.
- Consumes time.
- Restricts size of groups.

Advantages of Discussion Methods



Discussion method can develop following abilities among students

- Thinking and communicating powers
- Leadership quality
- Expression ability
- Problem solving ability
- Creativity
- Motivation and confidence

In short higher level cognitive and affective objectives can be realized through discussion method.

Disadvantages of Discussion Method



- There is a chance that only a few students may dominate the whole discussion.
- It is possible that discussion is initiated on those aspects of the problem with which few prominent students of the class are concerned.
- It is time consuming.
- Not adaptable to all teaching-learning situations.
- If it is not properly guided, a discussion can degenerate into a consideration of inappropriate topics adding confusion rather than clarification to the lesson.