

Good Group Work

Setting up a productive class culture of multidimensional mathematics and equitable group work

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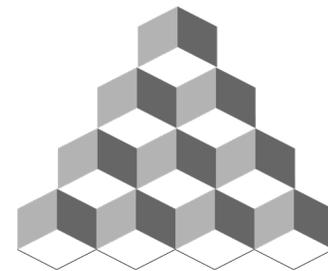
Introduction

This activity is valuable to do before students work on maths together as it helps create an environment for productive group interactions. Teachers who have tried this activity have been pleased by students' thoughtful responses and found the students' thoughts and words helpful in creating a positive and supportive environment.

Connection to CCSS
MP 3

Agenda

Activity	Time	Description/Prompt	Materials
Launch	5 min	Let students know that group work will be important in maths class because there is so much to learn from each other's thinking and ideas. Therefore, it is good for us to understand what we like and don't like when we are working with others in groups.	
Explore	5 min	Prompts for students to write individually: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflect on the things you do not like people to say and do when you are working on maths in a group Small Group Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groups share their ideas with each other Groups agree on the ideas from the group they will share with the class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maths journal Pencil/ pen
Discuss	5 min	Record ideas on posters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "What we DON'T like" list/poster Teacher takes one idea from each group and keeps going around until all ideas are on the poster 	Poster paper to collect the students' ideas
Explore	5 min	Prompts for students to write individually: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflect on the things you DO like people to say and do when you are working on maths in a group Small Group Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groups share their ideas with each other Groups agree on the ideas from the group they will share with the class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maths journal Pencil/ pen
Discuss	5 min	Record ideas on posters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "What we DO like" list/poster Teacher takes one idea from each group and keeps going around until all ideas are on the poster 	Poster paper to collect the students' ideas



To the Teacher

For this activity, be sure to make space for ideas over being pressed for time. We want all students' voices to be represented during this time. If you hear a comment such as "I don't like waiting for slow people" do not put it on the poster, instead use it as a chance to discuss the comment. Students are usually very thoughtful and respectful in the ideas they share.

Launch

Let students know that group work will be important in maths class because we have so much to learn from each other's thinking and ideas. Reasoning is really important to the discipline of mathematics.

Explore

Ask students to reflect individually on things they don't like people to say or do in a group when they are working on maths together. Students will come up with many important ideas, such as not liking people to give away the answer, or to rush through the work, or to ignore other people's ideas.

Discuss

Collect the ideas from each group and record them in a "What we DON'T like" list on a poster or whiteboard. Have each group contribute one idea, moving around the room until there are no more unique ideas to add.

Explore

Ask students to reflect individually on things they do like people to say or do in a group when they are working on maths together. Students will come up with many important ideas, such as liking people to check in with each other, ask how everyone sees it, or to give reasons.

Discuss

Collect the ideas from each group and record them in a "What we DO like" list on a poster or whiteboard. Have each group contribute one idea, moving around the room until there are no more unique ideas to add.

Present the final posters to the class and ask if they agree with these classroom norms or if there is anything else that should be added. Let them know that these will be a reference for the class throughout your work together and that they might have more they would like to add in the future.