

A New Direction Schools Forum, May 2014: Cultural Entitlement Discussion resources

The following activities were used to facilitate discussions at A New Direction's third Schools Forum in May 2014. They could all be adapted for use in the classroom or with staff at INSET.

Speed Graffiti:

This is a quick and fun way to generate a lot of ideas quickly.

- Choose the subject you want to get people's ideas on. This could be anything from 'what have we learned about the Romans' to 'what do the arts mean to you', and beyond!
- Split your group in to teams (the number of teams is up to you) and stick big sheets of paper to the wall – one per team. Ensure the teams are starting at a distance away from the paper on the wall.
- This game is like a relay race: each team must write as many ideas about a subject as possible, but only one person at a time can run to the paper to write down an idea or suggestion. When they have finished writing they return back to their team to pass on the pen, the next person runs to the paper to write down their idea.

Rules:

- Only one person can write at a time
 - Each person can only write one idea at a time
 - You must not repeat what someone in the team has already written.
 - The team with the most ideas wins.
- There is a normally a small prize attached to this such as chocolates or biscuits.

You can use the ideas you have gathered as the basis for a discussion or further activities.

Mapping Culture in School/Mapping Allies

These exercises were based on an activity for children and young people called “Emotional mapping”

Aim:

- Purpose is to get the children to ‘see’ the school as a whole, in terms of what happens where and how they feel about it
- Discovering a child’s perspective of school
- The results of this exercise can be used as stimulus for conversations about their community, creative writing exercises, geography and history lessons.

Exercise:

Create or use an actual map of the school; enough photocopies for each child. Ask students to identify on the map the

- Most fun
- Weirdest
- Smallest
- Most secret
- Funniest
- Smelliest
- etc

...places in the school.

Discussion about what the children noticed.

An extension of this is to ask the children to think about how certain spaces outside of school makes them feel. What is the different feeling and experience we get from a beach, a forest, a public park, an empty building? Encourage the children to consider how our sense of space is only partly visual – we experience it through actions, touch, sound and scale.

This exercise can be adapted for use with different age groups and abilities, or can be used with adults to explore ideas about the school.