

STRATEGY: Inner Outer Circle

Overview: *Inner-Outer Circle* involves participants in the discussion and debate of a common text

SKILLS ADDRESSED:

1. Self-directed learning
2. Active Listening
3. Analysis
4. Text-Connections (Schema)

STEPS INVOLVED:

1. All students read/experience the common text.
2. As students read, they mark the text according what resonates with them (*for example: +=things they agree with, ?=questions they have, -=things they disagree with, or !=things that represent new learning*).
3. Teacher establishes the norms for the Inner-Outer Circle discussion (for example: take risks, don't rely on teacher validation, don't dominate the conversation, honor each other's words, make connections to other texts/learnings, listen actively, take careful notes on what you hear, etc.)
4. Teacher divides class in half.
5. Half of the class becomes the Inner Circle and the other half becomes the Outer Circle.
6. The Inner Circle group takes their text and forms a circle facing one another and the Outer Circle group forms a circle around them.
7. The Inner Circle group has 20 minutes to discuss the text.
8. The Inner Circle group decides which passages of the text to discuss and what path the discussion will take.
9. Each member of the Outer Circle group creates a list of each member of the Inner Circle group.
10. Each member of the Outer-Circle group takes notes on every comment shared in the Inner Circle (*for example: Stacy-connected the author's statement on page _____ to May in The Secret Life of Bees., James-asked if the author was trying to say that all young people rely on technology to communicate, etc.*)
11. After 20 minutes, groups switch roles (the Outer Circle moves to the Inner Circle and the Inner Circle moves to the Outer Circle).
12. Steps 6-10 are repeated.
13. After the second round, students share their Outer Circle observations.
14. Teacher leads the group in a discussion of the Inner-Outer Circle process.