

TALKING TOKENS

Age 12+

Topic:

This is an effective method of facilitating discussions outdoors

Key terms:

Debate, critical thinking, communication, presentation

Estimated time:

45-60 minutes

What we need:

- *Loose parts in the environment*
- *A round gathering space*

Methods:

Experiential learning

Activity description:

1. Every participant leaves the gathering area to select a handheld natural object which will become their 'talking token.'
2. Once everybody re-groups, pose a thought-provoking and open-ended question.
3. Each person can only speak when they place their token in the centre of the circle.
4. Individuals can respond to the question with a statement, another question or by saying: "I agree with that idea because..." or "I disagree with that idea because..."
5. Discourage the use of names or attributing opinions to any individual as the aim is to depersonalise the debate by the participants reacting to the ideas in the circle and not the people who put them forwards.
6. As pupils gain more confidence in this practice they may want to have more than one talking token each.

Curriculum Links:

- Literacy
- Religious and Moral Studies
- Social Studies
- Health and Wellbeing



*The material is co-funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union
Project number: 2017-1-SK01-KA201-035316*

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