

Engagement patterns of different social groups

“Speed Dating”



UNTAMED
EDUCATION

“Speed Dating”

Task Instructions

1. Move all the desks to the sides of the room.
2. Arrange the chairs into 2 circles, one inside the other.
3. The inside chair should face the outside chair.
4. Set the question of your choice or give an exam style question, examples may be;
 - “You are the Sports Minister, list the strategies you would use to raise sports participation.”
 - “How do you think a community’s access to sport can be improved.”
5. Students then discuss in turn the topic raised with the person opposite them for about 3 minutes. Announce the time half way through to allow the other person to speak.
6. The outer circle then rotates so everyone receives a new discussion partner.
7. They must then each give a brief summary of their previous discussion to their new partner. This encourages good listening skills, they may even want to take notes. After the second discussion the circle moves around again, they debrief the new partner and start a new discussion.

Variations/Extensions

1. At the end of the activity have a group sharing period where students share with the whole class the most valuable idea that came out of their discussions.

The Learning

1. This can be used as a plenary activity at the end of the topic to reinforce and deepen the learning.
2. Sharing opinions and ideas through learning talk strengthens the learning.
3. Encourages empathy.
4. The discussion topic can encourage students to use higher level thinking skills and apply their knowledge to the real world.