WV TREE Resource:

English Language Arts

Resource Name: Teaching Students to Discuss

Grade Level(s): [ ]  5th Grade [ ]  6th Grade [ ]  7th Grade [x]  8th Grade [ ]  9th Grade

 [ ]  10th Grade [ ]  11th Grade [ ]  12th Grade

Resource Summary/Overview: We all know the importance of collaboration and discussion, but how do we teach our students to engage in considerate, meaningful ways? In these two lessons from Teaching Tolerance, students reflect on how to best communicate in group settings, preparing them to effectively participate in a democratic classroom.

Length: One or two 50-minute class periods

Domain(s) Addressed: [ ]  Reading [ ]  Writing [x]  Speaking/Listening [ ]  Language

West Virginia College- and Career-Readiness Standards:

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| --- | --- |
| ELA.8.30 | Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on *grade 8 topics, texts, and issues*, building on others’ ideas and expressing ideas clearly. * Come to discussions prepared, having read or researched material under study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence on the topic, text, or issue to probe and reflect on ideas under discussion.
* Follow rules for collegial discussions and decision-making, track progress toward specific goals and deadlines, and define individual roles as needed.
* Pose questions that connect the ideas of several speakers and respond to others’ questions and comments with relevant evidence, observations, and ideas.
* Acknowledge new information expressed by others and, when warranted, qualify or justify views in light of the evidence presented.
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Delivery Method(s): [ ]  Direct Instruction [x]  Whole Group [ ]  Pairs
 [x]  Small Group [ ]  Computer-based [x]  Individual
 [ ]  Other (explain): Click here to enter text.

Resource Materials: [ ]  Text(s) [ ]  Handouts [ ]  Media [ ]  Rubric

 [x]  Other (explain): Instructional plan

Resource Purpose(s): [x]  Engage/Activate [ ]  Introduce Topic/Skill [ ]  Review Topic/Skill

 [ ]  Formative Assessment [ ]  Summative Assessment

 [x]  Reinforce Skill [ ]  Enrichment [ ]  Intervention/Support

 [ ]  Other (explain): Click here to enter text.

Instructor Notes: The two lessons may be used separately or combined. Access them at <http://www.tolerance.org/lesson/ground-rules-discussion> and <http://www.tolerance.org/speaking-kindness>.