



STEP AROUND THE ROOM – INSTRUCTIONS

Introduction

The purpose of this activity is to learn and practice Peace Table with the STEP method of peaceful problem solving. This conflict resolution approach for the classroom provides a quick and easy, peer directed method for peacemaking. This practice/play activity combines learning workbook lessons with role-playing conflict resolution scenarios. After the initial 6 role-play scenarios, the class is encouraged to use more 'public' conflicts for real-time practice. From there, the teacher can establish a Peace Table and simply assign a student to work with disputants in the back of the classroom as conflicts arise, thereby minimizing class disruption. A regular Peace Table session should take about 20 minutes.

The Play (Teaching the Classroom)

The class is divided into 7 'teams' with each team being located in a different area around the room (see Key). The teacher is encouraged to begin at the #1 position. Each location is marked with the Position number, which includes the STEP question(s) to be asked and the respective workbook page assignment. After the class is positioned, two students (1 boy & 1 girl) are selected to play the 'disputants'. No more than one student should be selected from each group. The disputants are given their respective 'Conflict Cards', which describe the conflict scene and, on the back, each point-of-view. Each must come up with what S/he want from the other and what they are willing to do.

Each small group is given time to do their workbook pages assigned with the position that they occupy. The workbook exercises prepare the team for their questions. Unfinished workbook assignments should be given as busy work. Because there are two positions that repeat (2&4 - 3&5) some workbook assignments are called 2nd Round. When ready, the disputants sit in front of the classroom and answer questions from each team. When completed, the teacher reads the respective Debrief Cards and helps the class discuss the exercise. The next time the game is played, two new volunteers are selected and are replaced by the former-acting disputants.

Suggestions

- The entire class must participate (including teachers and teachers aids).
- The teachers start in the #1 Position for the first round of play, after which they rotate through the positions and allow student groups to occupy that position.

The Scenarios

Each of the role-play scenarios presents a different type of conflict. Role Playing is an important part of this activity. Encourage the students to take each role-play opportunity seriously. Even as one of the question teams, they will be role-modeling a peacemaker.