



X CORNERS

Purpose

Provocative and controversial statements on a given topic are meant to compel students to consider their own positions. Defending a single position encourages students to support their argument with evidence and reasoning. The method thus facilitates a more active exchange of ideas in subsequent discussions, e.g. in the whole group or in a *Fishbowl* setup.

Directions

The instructor places a different statement, image, or image with commentary (each presenting different perspectives on a given topic, question, or problem) in three to four corners of the classroom. Students choose the image or statement they most identify or agree with and place themselves in the respective corner of the room. Once there, the individual groups discuss why they opted for their choice by problematizing, discussing, and justifying it. Group members are then asked to contribute their arguments in a discussion with the whole class, or to continue the discussion in a *Fishbowl* arrangement.

Parameters

Group size: 12-20 people
 Time required: 10-15 minutes (depending on complexity of the task) so that students have enough time for small-group discussions
 Setup: flexible; ideally moveable chairs so that all groups have sufficient space and distance from each other for their discussions
 Materials: none required

Helpful Tips

The technique is suitable for forming and justifying an opinion, for evaluations, or for subsequent decision making. Also possible as a tool for starting a discussion at the beginning of a class or as a summative evaluation at the end of a course.

To inquire about the expectations / motivation...	To inquire about prior knowledge...	To juxtapose opinions..
— Let's see what will happen here...		
— I would like tips and tricks for my own teaching...		
— I have the following questions related to my own teaching and would like to develop answers within the group...		

Online Implementation

— Separating students into four “corners” is possible in [heiCONF](#) via the chat or shared notes function. In setting up breakout rooms for individual group discussions, instructors must ensure that students can assign themselves to a specific room.

Adapted from:
 Wahl, D. (2013). *Lernumgebungen erfolgreich gestalten* (3rd ed.). Julius Klinkhart Verlag.



Dieses Werk und dessen Inhalte sind – sofern nicht anders angegeben – lizenziert unter CC BY SA 4.0. Nennung bitte wie folgt: "X Corners" vom heiSKILLS Kompetenz- und Sprachenzentrum, Lehren & Lernen. Lizenz: CC BY SA 4.0.