

Place Mat

Oral Language Strategy Sheet

Place Mat is a form of collaborative learning that combines writing and dialogue to ensure accountability and participation of all students. It involves groups of students working both alone and together around a single piece of paper to simultaneously carry out a specific task.

Learning Outcomes

By choosing to engage in this activity the following learning outcomes will naturally be encountered:

OL2, OL8, OL10 R2, R6, R7
W2

Key Skills

Communicating
Management Information
and Thinking
Working with Others
Literacy

Student Friendly Learning Intentions:

Students will:

Work as individuals to extract information
Communicate with each other to share
ideas
Reflect on their own learning and learn to
reach a consensus of opinion

Materials

A3 paper is preferable as it allows space for the individuals to work together. Writing materials.

The paper is divided up into sections based on the number of students in the group. There is a central square marked in the middle of the paper.

Instructions

1. Decide the topic that you want the group to examine. You may wish to explore themes, character traits, imagery etc.
2. Divide the class into groups of 3 or 4 and have them sit together around the mat.
3. Explain the task clearly to the groups, allowing for clarification questions.
4. Each student will work alone in his/her allocated section of the mat.
5. Set a specific time for the students to have completed the first part of the place mat activity.
6. The students then rotate the mat to allow each member of the group to read what everyone has written.
7. A new element of the task will involve the students collaboratively reaching agreed answers to the task and placing the answers in the centre section of the mat.
8. This will require listening skills and reaching consensus. It will involve critical thinking from the group to decide on the key points needed to satisfy the task.
9. Certain roles can be allocated in the groups.
10. Each group will then share information to the class or other groups using strategies such as: walkabout; oral reporting; questioning; etc.

