

SOS SPOTLIGHT ON STRATEGIES

Simple instructional strategies that incorporate digital media in meaningful, effective, and practical ways.

FOUR CORNERS



The Four Corners cooperative teaching and learning strategy empowers students to take part in group activities. It is a helpful strategy to use when students have been sitting and need some physical movement in order to refocus. The Four Corners strategy helps students develop listening, critical thinking, and decision-making skills in the classroom. According to eHow.com, this strategy “works well to engage all students in conversations about controversial topics”.



Materials: video clip from Discovery Education, a “thought-provoking” statement, a sign for each of the four corners of your room (Agree, Disagree, Strongly Agree, Strongly Disagree)

1. Choose a video clip relating to your topic of study, and post a sign in each corner of your classroom.
2. Play the video clip and post the “thought-provoking” statement relating to the topic of the clip.

example: If your topic is The American Revolution, you might find a clip about the Loyalists vs. the Patriots, and then post this statement, “Colonists who fought against the King’s soldiers were nothing more than rebels fighting against their own country.”

3. Allow students a minute to decide how they feel about the statement and to walk to the appropriate corner of the classroom. In those groups, they will have a discussion and appoint one person to be the “voice” of their opinion. Each group in a corner will have a chance to share their point of view in relation to the statement.
4. Students may change corners if they change their mind after listening to another group’s point of view, as long as they can justify their decision.
5. When discussion is complete, each student will complete an opinion writing stating their opinion and why they chose that point of view.

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This strategy is great for having students defend their opinions, cite evidence, write opinion papers and develop critical thinking. It also helps them learn to communicate and have respectful conversations despite differing opinions. It is great for students who need more kinesthetic learning as it allows them to get up and move their bodies around the classroom while they are thinking.



You can use other digital media assets to begin this process. Don't limit yourself to just video clips. You may also use reading passages, audio files and images to begin this process.