

Procedure for using Three Heads are Better Than One

Today we are going to begin with an individual activity before moving into a three-person group. We have read several readings about _____, and it is likely you have some strong opinions about this. As you know, we are going to conclude our study of this issue by writing an argumentative essay. When writing this type of piece, it is important to acknowledge the differing perspectives of the people who are concerned with this issue. The people who have a vested interest in this issue are _____, _____, and _____. (Teacher could choose to have more perspectives represented.) We are going to count off by threes to determine which perspective you will assume for the activity. (Count off until every student has a number.)

First we will work individually to brainstorm what someone who has your perspective would think. What would this person have questions about? What opinion would he/she have about _____. Explain what reasons the person could possibly have for feeling this way?

(After about 10 minutes, regroup into trios with a number one, a number two, and a number three representative).

While you are in your trio group, each person tells which perspective he/she assumed, then shares everything from his/her brainstorming sheet. After each person has shared, the group works together to find connections or disconnects between the perspectives. These are written on the sentence strips. Finally, each person copies information onto his/her Thinksheet in preparation for pre-writing.

Easy Practice Three Heads are Better than One

- 1) Should girls be permitted to play sports on boys-only teams?
- 2) Should downloading music for free be illegal?
- 3) Should violent video games be sold only to adults?
- 4) Should parents be able to track the whereabouts of their children by using online technologies?
- 5) Does social networking do more harm than good?
- 6) Is Facebook time leading to academic decay?
- 7) Should animals be used for scientific research or to test products intended for humans?
- 8) Should students be required to have grades of "C" or better to participate in extracurricular activities?
- 9) Should students be allowed to use electronic devices in school?
- 10) Which issue is most important for re-elected President Obama to address?

More difficult Template Task I have assigned:

Protection or Privacy: Should the government be involved in the protection of its citizens in their use of technology, or is citizen technology use a totally private and personal matter?