

Red Card, Green Card Process

Taking an Opinion Poll

Purpose

The red card, green card process enables you to take a quick agree-or-disagree opinion poll to initiate discussion on a particular unit topic.

Materials

Make a set of cards, with one side red and the other side green, for each of the students in your class. Three cards can be cut from an 8½-by-11-inch sheet of colored card stock. Take one red card and one green card and laminate them back to back. The cards can be used repeatedly. If your learning strategy includes the use of a document, article, or statistics to inform the discussion that follows the process, be sure to make copies of these, one for each student.

Process Steps

1. Create a list of ten statements related to the unit content that can evoke a response of agreement or disagreement.
2. Write the numbers 1 through 10 in a column on the board, corresponding to the ten statements you created. Above and to the right of the numbers, write "Agree" and "Disagree" to create two columns for recording the responses to each question.
3. Distribute the red and green cards to the students.
4. Tell the students that when each statement is read, they should hold up the red side of the card to face the front of the room if they disagree. They should hold up the green side of the card to face the front of the room if they agree.
5. Clarify for the students that agreeing or disagreeing with a statement does not necessarily mean that they personally condone what the statement says.
6. Choose a volunteer to count the number of students who agree and the number of students who disagree with each of the ten statements and to record the number in the appropriate column and row on the board.
7. Once the opinions have been recorded for each of the ten statements, collect the cards for use in other lessons.
8. Review and discuss each statement using a document, article, PowerPoint presentation, or discussion notes to provide background for an informed judgment on the topic.



Option

An alternative discussion format is to have students read or review an assigned article, document, or set of statistics on the issue after the opinion poll. Divide the class into small groups of four and have each group develop a consensus opinion, supporting their position with information from the reading. Direct the groups to share their opinions with the class.

This red card, green card process was contributed by Maryann Tyrer, theology teacher at Cardinal Gibbons High School, Raleigh, North Carolina.

