



Social Justice and Equality (1)

It's Not Fair!

Advanced (Classes 11-12)

Intermediate (Classes 7-10)



Social Justice/School Reform (A Pestalozzi Approach)

The participants are divided into two groups. One group has two thirds of the participants in it. The other group has one third of the participants in it. The smaller group is given enough pens, paper and dictionaries for each participant to have one of everything each. The larger group is given one pen, one sheet of paper and one dictionary for every five participant.

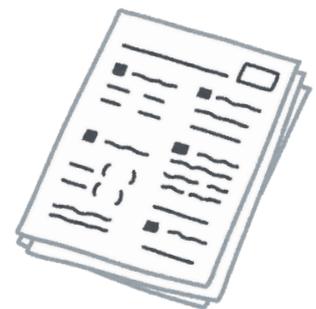
Each individual participant is told to look up and write down the dictionary definition of one adjective, one noun and one verb. These should be words that the participant does not already know. No words should be repeated in the group and each participant must do his or her own work. At the end, each participant must hand in a separate sheet of paper.

(NB: The smaller group will of course complete first and there is no need to make the larger group finish the activity, although it should continue for long enough to emphasise the point of the activity.)

The participants discuss how it felt to be in the larger or in the smaller group and what was unfair about the distribution of materials. A discussion about inequality and the need for social justice follows, linking this to disadvantaged groups found in the participants' countries as well as to disadvantaged countries in the world.

Materials Needed

- Dictionaries (see below to decide on the number required)
- Paper and pens (see below)



Pestalozzi spent his life struggling to bring about social justice for the poor. When he was alive, the citizens of Switzerland (only townfolk were considered to be citizens) had all the rights, while the people living in the countryside had no rights and had to pay heavy taxes. He tried to change this. He believed that an education which helps people to help themselves is the best way to help people escape poverty and gain equality. He therefore spent his life working to provide a relevant education for the poor.