



Perception and Empathy (2)

Being Picked On

Advanced (Classes 11-12)

Intermediate (Classes 7-10)



Perception (A Pestalozzi Approach)

(NB: This Teaching Idea should only be used with participants who are confident and who know each other well.)

Instructions to participants:

Participants to brainstorm situations where there would be an individual in authority (for example a shopkeeper, a policeman, a doctor, a teacher or a parent).

The participants are divided into three groups (A, B and C). The facilitator speaks privately to all in Group A, telling them, when in role, to be very kind and generous to a Group B student and very unkind and mean to a Group C participant. *(NB: The Group A participants must not explain to the participants from groups B and Cs that they have been told to behave in this way.)*

The participants are now divided into groups of three, each group containing an A, a B and a C participant. The facilitator explains that all from Group A should choose to be an individual in a position of authority and all from Groups B and C should be characters needing things / help from whichever figure of authority their A participant has chosen to be.

The participants do a 5-minute role-play, with A participants remembering to treat B participants well and C participants badly. Several groups are chosen to act their scenes in front of everyone else. *(NB: Participants should go straight into their roles, not planning dialogue or script in advance).*

The facilitator asks C participants how they felt and then B participants how they felt. This leads into a discussion about unfair treatment and discrimination.

According to Pestalozzi, perception is inner understanding of morality and truth – the powers of the heart, which include empathy. He wanted education to help ensure that people are able to empathise with others and treat others fairly. Pestalozzi was concerned about inequality and struggled constantly for equal rights for people who are discriminated against.

Materials Needed

Any props that may be available

