

Class meetings

Structure

- Use a meeting circle arrangement of chairs or cushions
- In turn, have the opportunity to give and receive thanks and compliments
- Reflect on the suggestions of the previous meeting
- Work through an open, written agenda, which has been accessed and added to by students during the week
- Go around the circle to share ideas and feelings in turn.

Notes:

It can be useful to use a small object which, if held by a student, indicates that that student has the sole right to speak without interruption. Limit each speaking time to one minute.

Because the agenda is formed over time, many issues will have resolved by the time the meeting begins, simply because they have been listed as a concern.

If there is enough time, it is good to finish a class meeting with a short, co-operative and fun activity that leaves the students feeling cohesive and happy with each other.

Agreements

- An agreement to use a solutions-based approach to issues
- An agreement that, when a person speaks, they do so without interruption, interjection or uninvited responses from others (discourse)
- An agreement that all statements will have the purpose of maintaining the agreed standards in positive ways
- An agreement that all statements will be listened to without derision, mockery or anger.