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Helping Trios



Student Objective

Students will develop active listening and speaking skills, and will learn how to provide and receive feedback.

Overview

This structure is used to provide students with the opportunity to develop speaking and listening skills while simultaneously learning how to provide and receive feedback. In order for students to learn how to engage in relevant and appropriate reciprocal conversations, they will need to be provided with both the time and space to do so.

Materials/Set-Up

- In advance of the activity, complete the following:
 - Pre-determine the topic of discussion.

Instructional Steps

1. Divide the class into groups of three.
2. Instruct groups to assign each member one of the following letters: A, B, and C.
3. Give groups a topic (e.g., “My challenges this semester,” “My successes this year,” etc.) to discuss as follows.
4. Student A is in the “hot seat,” and should discuss the topic for two minutes while Students B and C silently employ active listening skills.
5. Next, Students B and C offer feedback for two minutes, while Student A remains silent.
6. All three students then engage in open dialogue for two minutes.
7. Repeat this process with Student B in the hot seat, and then with Student C in the hot seat.
8. If appropriate to the task/topic, consider having the active listening partners take notes about what the speaker has shared.

→ Extension

- To increase rigor, this activity can be modified to provide evaluative feedback. Utilize this structure to rehearse a college or job interview. Student A will be the interviewee, and Student B will be the interviewer. Student C observes and takes notes. Student B interviews Student A for a set amount of time, while Student C remains silent. After the allotted time, Student C provides Student A with evaluative feedback. Switch the roles and repeat for all of the group members.