Diamond 9 Activity

This activity is a good way to introduce a new topic or idea, or to get learners to explore and debate something by helping them to order key factors.

Diamond Nine diagram



Prepare nine cards, or work with the learners to identify nine aspects of the topic or issue. Ask them to place the most important towards the top of the "diamond 9 "; the least important towards the bottom. Factors of equal importance are placed in the same row.

Here is how you might use it:

Stage 1: Brainstorming ideas for the Diamond 9

Individual students identify 9 factors which help to answer a key question. After a few minutes, the teacher "brainstorms" all the ideas onto the board.

Stage 2: Selecting ideas for the Diamond 9

Working individually (if each student has their own computer) or in small groups, students select the nine factors they consider the most important. These are written into the diamond 9 diagram in no particular order.

Stage 3: Prioritising ideas for the Diamond 9

Finally, students have to re-arrange the factors in their diagram so that the most important are towards the top, the least important towards the bottom. They make notes to explain their reasoning

Stage 4: Concluding

Students should be encouraged to compare their diagrams: for example

(a) The teacher could ask one student to justify why they put a particular factor at the top of the diagram, and another student could then be asked why they placed the same factor at the bottom;

(b) Each member of the class should be asked their "most important" factor. These could be tallied up on the board against individual factors to get an overall "class view". This information could also be used as the basis of a debate.

Other Ideas for the Template

Provide all, or some of the factors in advance to students. They merely come up with a few more to fill the blank boxes.

Provide all 9 factors for consideration, but make three of them incorrect. Students start by deleting these, then replacing them with their own factors.

Samples

Find some ideas of this in use here (note this site offers an online tool for this exercise): <http://www.classtools.net/samples/diamond>