

Sticker Inclusion/Exclusion Activity

Materials: stickers of different colours and shapes/sizes (I use stars of a variety of colours and sizes).

Inform the students that the class is going to do an activity where a small sticker is placed on their forehead. Allow students to abstain from participating, but inform them that they cannot influence what the others are doing.

Have the students close their eyes (no peeking!). Place a sticker on their forehead. For a class of 20, try to have at least 2 or 3 people with the exact same sticker, and at least 4 people with the same colour of sticker.

Once all the stickers have been placed. Tell the students to open their eyes, but to remain silent. Without using their voices (or looking in a mirror to see their own sticker), have the students place themselves in groups (they can use gestures, though).

Likely, the students will organize themselves by those with the exact same sticker (but however they organize themselves is fine). Note what the organization is.

Tell the students to “try again”, organizing themselves in a different way. Again, note what organization they choose, and tell them to try again. Repeat as often as you like.

Different organizations include: same colour/shape/size, same colour (but different shape/size), same shape/size (but different colour), everyone together as one, everyone on their own, etc. etc.

Students will get frustrated, perhaps even shoving students out of ‘their’ group in order to get the ‘right’ answer. This is obviously an entryway to an interesting discussion on a variety of points.

Eventually, stop the activity and debrief the students.