

THE BEST & THE REST

Overview

This activity is a fantastic revision tool for testing the ability of students to apply the approaches. It doesn't take much planning and due to the nature of the task presents different stimuli and answers every year. The task can be completed individually, in pairs or in groups. I find that groups of three work particularly well. There are several ways you can run the activity dependent on time, budget and student ability.

Teacher instructions

For this activity you will need plenty of easy read magazines such as 'Take a Break' or 'Now'. Save them up over several weeks if you have large classes. Alternatively you can present students with one article per group.

The idea is that your students explain the behaviour they have read about in the magazine. Depending on time they can do this for one or more articles.

Distribute your magazines around the class with a small number of post it notes.

Ask students to select a behaviour from the magazine either a celebrity or a 'real world' store.



THE BEST & THE REST

Students need to analyse the behaviour of the individual and try and explain it using the 5 approaches psychodynamic/ learning (behaviourist and/or social learning)/ cognitive/ biological and humanistic. They need to think how each approach would explain the behaviour using key terms. They should jot their answers down on post it noted, ready to transfer to the Analysis sheet.

When their time is up (this part is up to you...about 15 minutes is sufficient) give the students their analysis sheets. They are often better enlarged to A3 size. Students should write a summary of the behaviour in the centre and then write their answers regarding the approaches in the boxes provided.

Finally it is time for them to decide which explanation they believe is the best and why. Their judgement should be entered onto the analysis sheet.

It is a good idea for them to present their analysis to the rest of the class, if there is time.



The Best & the Rest

Analysis Sheet

A psychodynamic theorist would say...

A humanist theorist would say...

A cognitive theorist would say...

The behaviour...

A biological theorist would say...

A learning theorist would say...

Which explanation is the best? Give 3 reasons why...

1

2

3