

ROTATING SQUARES

Overview

The aim of this activity is to help students develop their essay writing skills, by considering four questions related to a particular essay question. Furthermore, this activity will provide students with an opportunity to collaborate and work in groups to develop their essay writing.

Resources Required

- An A3 rotating squares handout (see example attached)
- Four different colour pens
- Post-it notes (for teaching and learning strategy B)

Teacher Instructions

Teaching and Learning Strategy A

The students should work in groups of four to complete the rotating squares handout. Place the A3 handout (see attached) on the center of a table and give the students 3-5 minutes to work on their question. After 3-5 minutes have passed, the students should rotate the handout 90 degrees and consider the next question.

The students should then add to the answer, in a different colour pen, so that you can assess individual contributions on this activity. Again, give the students another 3-5 minutes, before repeating the task twice more.



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Teaching and Learning Strategy B

An alternative way to deliver this task is to provide each group of four students with a different essay question. Then, you should follow 'teaching and learning strategy A' so that each group completes their question.

Thereafter, each group should swap their completed rotating square handout with another table, who can assess their work and add comments, using post-it notes.

Stretch & Challenge

The four questions on the rotating squares handout can be differentiated. Then, you can give your most able student the harder question (e.g. Are there any issues/debates that you could discuss...) first, while the easier questions (e.g. AO1 questions) to the less able student.

