

Four Corners Strategy

Rational:

Four corners is an instructional strategy that asks students to make a decision in regards to a question asked or a problem presented. Students explore their own views and then move to one of four corners of the room. Students engage in small group discussions to share their views and listen to others. Through the whole class sharing, students hear different perspectives.

Four Corner Instructions:

- Write the words consistently, sometimes, rarely and never on paper and place in each corner of the room. (Note: Depending on the question or statement read, you may wish to change the words placed in each of the corners.)
- Read a statement to students. The statement is also written on the board for students to refer to as they ponder the statement.
- Students listen to the statement and must decide which of the four corners best represents their response to the statement. Students should be given a few minutes to collect their thoughts before they move to the appropriate corner of the room.
- At each corner, students will pair with another student to discuss why they chose their response to the statement or problem presented. It is important for students to interact with each other on the topic before it becomes a class discussion.
- After the pair discussion, each corner group will discuss why they chose their response to the statement or problem presented. Students must be active listeners and speakers as all students will be sharing the information with the rest of the class.
- Next, the teacher will have a group discussion to share why each group chose their response to the statement or problem presented. After the discussion, students may change their position in the room. If a student chooses to change positions he/she must defend their choice.

Samples of Four Corners Modifications:

1. The teacher may present a scenario to students and label the four corners to correspond to the scenario.
2. The teacher may use the four corners to determine student interest or opinion on a topic.