

Stance Warm-Up: Fortunately, Unfortunately

Description:

Participants create a communal story by alternating between the sentence starts “fortunately” and “unfortunately” to tell what happens next. For example:

- Person 1: Fortunately, I bought ice cream today.
- Person 2: Unfortunately, I left it on the counter and it melted.
- Person 3: Fortunately, I had a milkshake recipe that it would still be perfect for...

Goals and Purpose:

This activity encourages cooperation in the moment (just like in havruta and small group work) to create a product (story) and helps students see that every single voice affects the story.

Stances:

- “I need to share space and time with others and the text.”
- “I need to pull my weight in the partnership.”
- “If all of the partners work together we will come to learning and insights (in this case a story) that we would not have come to on our own, in the same way, or with another set of partners.”

Introduction:

- Teacher says, “Today we are going to work together to create a story. Each of you will add one brief sentence to the story and will alternate using the words ‘fortunately’ and ‘unfortunately’ at the beginning of your sentence.”
- Teacher will give an example. “Student number one says, ‘I bought a balloon at the fair.’ Student number two adds on by starting with the word ‘Unfortunately’ and says, ‘Unfortunately, the balloon popped.’ The third student adds on, starting with the word ‘Fortunately,’ and says ‘Fortunately, there was money inside the balloon to buy another balloon.’” Any questions? (Take questions.) Let’s get started!

Activity:

Students share their “fortunately” and “unfortunately” sentences one at a time until everyone has had a chance to contribute.

Student 1: Fortunately...

Student 2: Unfortunately...

Wrap-up Language: (select based on what you hope to emphasize)

- “Wow! That was quite a tale!”
- “This activity shows how we can draw on many voices and collaborate to create a complete story. Using different voices allows the story to evolve creatively.”
- “This activity reinforces listening because you have to pay attention to what the person before you said. You also had to pay close attention to what all your classmates are sharing because your sentence has to fit the context and sequence of the story.”

Notes for the Teacher:

- Have a list of students handy that you can check off so you do not forget anyone.
- You might want to reinforce the concept of “one complete sentence” since some students may stretch their sentences.

