

PHILOSOPHICAL CHAIRS – DISCUSSION ON HATE SPEECH

MATERIALS

- Chart paper, chalkboard, or whiteboard
 - Markers or chalk for discussion board
 - Philosophical Chairs Reflection Sheet printable
 - LOCATED UNDER THE TAB [**PHILOSOPHICAL CHAIRS REFLECTION SHEET**]
 - Copies of the articles on Hate Speech
 - Post-It notes or scrap paper
 - Pencils
 - Philosophical Chairs Discussion Assessment Chart printable
LOCATED UNDER THE TAB [**PHILOSOPHICAL CHAIRS ASSESSMENT CHART**]
 - Optional: Computers for online research
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SET UP

1. Set up your classroom for the "Philosophical Chairs" discussion.
Have one designated area for students who think **HATE SPEECH SHOULD BE BANNED**.
Directly across from the group who are for **ABSOLUTE FREEDOM OF SPEECH**.
In between the two should be a section for students who are neutral on the issue.
 2. Write the topic/issue on a piece of chart paper or the chalkboard/whiteboard you are planning to use during the discussion.
 3. Make a class set of the **PHILOSOPHICAL CHAIRS REFLECTION SHEETS**.
 4. Print a copy of the **PHILOSOPHICAL CHAIRS DISCUSSION ASSESSMENT**.
 5. Instruct students to read the articles on Hate Speech and Freedom of Speech including the Constitution.
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LESSON DIRECTIONS

STEP 1: Inform students that they will discuss the assigned reading with an activity called Philosophical Chairs. Essentially, Philosophical Chairs is a means of debating an issue. Students will respond to a question and be divided into groups based on their responses. They will then discuss their reasons for their answers.

STEP 2: Reveal the topic to students: **SHOULD WE HAVE LAWS TO REGULATE HATE SPEECH.**

STEP 3: Provide each student with a Post-it Note or small piece of paper and instruct them to write down their name followed by their stance on the issue. They should write **"agree," "disagree," or "neutral."**

STEP 4: Collect student slips and position students in their chosen areas (agree, disagree, or neutral).

STEP 5: Select one student to start the discussion by stating why they chose their particular stance on the issue.

NOTE: Throughout the discussion, take notes on students' participation using the PHILOSOPHICAL CHAIRS ASSESSMENT CHART.

STEP 6: Continue with a detailed debate with students explaining why they have taken one of the three positions (agree, disagree, neutral).

STEP 7: At the conclusion of the discussion, have students complete the PHILOSOPHICAL CHAIRS REFLECTION SHEET.