

Say Something, Please!!



A Radical Form of
the Harkness Method

Steps

1. Students read/research, write questions. Teacher may add questions.
2. Students reread/continue research, engage in discussion.

Suggestions

1. Emphasize preparation (reading, highlighting, annotation, additional research)
2. Take it slowly: allow preparation time, allow pauses
3. Intervene minimally. Allow the students to fail if they have not, through preparation, earned success. Then talk with them about why they failed.
4. Encourage good citizenship - “right of way” analogy.
5. Grade to affirm, but grade with integrity.

Robin Eliot

All Saints Academy, Winter Haven, FL

reliot@allsaintsacademy.com (One L and one T in Eliot)

Harkness Discussion Rubric

Students earning a score of 18-20/20 will have...

- Stayed focussed, and participated frequently in the discussion.
- Furthered existing discussion threads.
- Taken the discussion below the surface of the relevant literature.
- Supported points from the text.
- Participated in an entirely civil manner, allowing others to speak and respecting their contributions.

Students earning a score of 16-17/20 will have...

- Stayed focussed, and participated frequently in the discussion.
- Furthered existing discussion threads to some extent.
- Taken the discussion below the surface of the relevant literature to some extent.
- Supported points from the text to some extent.
- Participated in an entirely civil manner, allowing others to speak and respecting their contributions.

Students earning a score of 14-15/20 will have...

- Stayed focussed, and participated to some extent in the discussion
- Made points that are supportable from the text.
- Participated in an entirely civil manner, allowing others to speak and respecting their contributions

Students earning a score of 13/20 may have been only partially focussed, participated seldom, failed to support points from the text, or fallen into minor breaches of civility.

Students earning a score of 0 to 12/20 may have failed to focus, failed to participate, or committed serious breaches of civility.