

RANK THE CONCEPTS¹

Time: 30 min.
Age: 5th grade and up

WHAT IS IT?

This is a fun way for students to learn the meanings of core concepts by ranking their importance for Public Achievement.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Concepts distinguish PA from other types of service learning, it allows us to think politically about what we do. It is important to have a beginning understanding of concepts so that you can apply them throughout the project.

WHEN IS THIS USEFUL?

During the initial meetings, or as a break mid-year.

MATERIALS: flip-chart / markers

CORE CONCEPTS: All

SKILLS: critical Thinking, negotiation

ACTIVITIES / STEPS:

- A. List the concepts on a board or flipchart (you could also ask students to do this, if they have been introduced to the concepts).
- B. Have students offer working definitions for each concept.
- C. Individually or in small groups, have students rank the top five concepts in order of importance for public work (making our communities better), and name the one concept they see as least important (5 minutes).
- D. Gather the group and have each person on their list and the reasons why they ranked the concepts accordingly. Make checks on the board or flipchart next to the concepts that were in the top five for each person and X's for the least important for each.
- E. Discuss which concepts are most important and why.

EVALUATION:

1. What was it like to do this? Was it difficult to rank?
2. What were some of the reasons for the differences among lists?
3. Did students feel like they learned more about the concepts through this exercise? What, specifically?
4. How could we use concepts in our PA projects?

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