



CLASSROOM ACTIVITY 1 – THE SHIPWRECK

OBJECTIVE

It consists of reaching an agreement among all students to choose a certain number of objects from a fictitious situation approach.

Everyone will have to state their reasons to defend their point of view.

TIME REQUIRED

60 minutes.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE

It can vary. In small or big groups.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Paper, pen and computer.

INSTRUCTIONS

We ask students about the following situation:

Imagine you are in a shipwreck. Hardly have you managed to reach an island where you will have to spend three years of your life, without moving from there.

You must live in the following conditions:

- You will occupy a place of 20 square kilometres, and of this surface: $\frac{1}{4}$ of it is a fish lake, $\frac{1}{4}$ of it is cultivated land, $\frac{1}{4}$ of it is a wild forest and $\frac{1}{4}$ of it is uncultivated land.
- The climate of the place is summery, with a constant temperature of 30°C during the day and 20°C during the night. It only rains 30 days a year.
- The only people you will meet during your stay in this island will be your classmates.

Together you can take 3 out of the 30 items inside the ship. You need to agree among yourselves to decide which 3 objects in the list you decide to take.

List of objects to choose from:

1. A complete fishing gear
2. Two shovels and two gardening picks
3. Three tennis rackets and twenty balls
4. Two guitars
5. Twenty bars of soap
6. A backpack for everyone
7. One hundred toilet rolls
8. A cow and a bull
9. One hundred boxes of assorted preserves
10. One hundred books of classical literature
11. One hundred bottles of alcoholic drinks
12. A rowing boat
13. Ten metal bars
14. One hundred boxes of matches
15. A six-year-old horse
16. A good amount of penicillin
17. Three decks of cards
18. A Siamese cat
19. Beauty items
20. Various kinds of seeds
21. A computer with full battery
22. Five closets full of clothes
23. Twenty-five photographs of your beloved ones
24. Five thousand paper sheets
25. A rifle and a hundred bullets
26. A set of oil paintings and thirty spare tubes
27. A rechargeable battery with solar energy
28. Material to make a photo shoot
29. Two tents of three compartments each
30. Kitchenware

Classroom management

1. Read the situation description, the conditions and the list of objects. We will have to explain the ultimate goal: the agreement among all the group members.
2. First individually, and then in pairs, choose 3 objects, out of all the ones appearing on the list, that the students consider the most appropriate and explain the reasons that led them to choose those.
3. In groups of 4 or 6 students, the chosen objects are compared and the reasons for their choice are discussed. If there is no match, they will have to agree to select 3 of them from each pair.
4. A spokesperson from each group will write the 3 chosen objects on the board and explain the reasons for their selection.

5. Since the ultimate goal is to select 3 from the whole class, each spokesperson will take turns to defend and argue the reasons for his/her choice.
6. Then, the floor for discussion is open. We will appoint a moderator to lead the discussion and establish speaking times.
7. If necessary, the final choice of 3 objects that the group would take in case of shipwreck would be voted.
8. We can then ask each student to justify why they have left out one of the items on the list.

SELF-EVALUATION AND REFLECTION GUIDE

What helped you reach an agreement? Has it been difficult to do it?

- How did you choose the group's spokesperson?
- Did you find it interesting to hear the arguments for and against from each group's spokesperson?
- As an audience, what made you rate some arguments as stronger than others?
- Did you detect any fallacies? Which ones and what kind of fallacies?
- Do you think it is useful to know how to argue with good arguments? Why?