

Training pedagogy: Consensus building

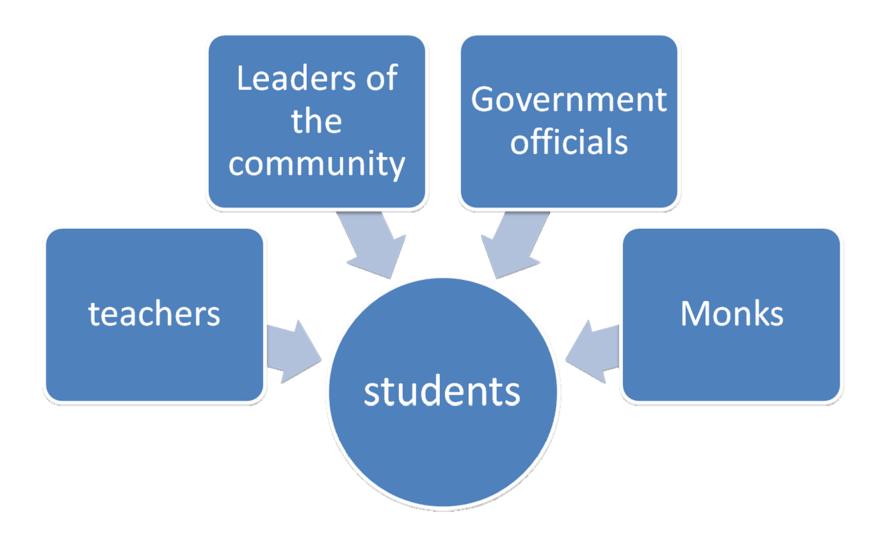
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Who are students



Consensus building training for Teachers and students



Steps to Consensus

- 1. Identify issues or problems
- 2. Discuss and present arguments for and against,
- 3. Make suggestions for combining similar problems or modifying problems.
- 4. Generate a new problem based on the discussion
- 5. Consider realistic options for solution.
- 6. Explore differences and similarities, agreements and disagreements, between and among problems to reach consensus

Steps to Consensus

- Apply the following criteria to the problem under consideration
 - Does the government have the authority and responsibility to act on the problem?
 - Is it reasonable to believe that a public policy can, or should be enacted to solve the problem?
 - Can the problem be addressed with a single public policy?
 - Is the problem important to young people, or does it have a direct or indirect impact on them?
 - Will you be able to find enough information to work on the problem?

True consensus comes when...

- 1. You must create an environment that encourages and supports rational discussion of ideas.
- 2. Students are allowed to voice diversified opinions and explore different perspectives.
- 3. Students are not coerced by strong individuals (or the teacher).
- 4. There must be a process to combine the different opinions into a final consensus while allowing room for disagreement and differences of opinion.

When There Is No Consensus

Alternatives

- Use Dot democracy
- Create a compromise problem and ask everyone to react.
- Provide individual reflection time and then begin discussion of the problem(s) again.
- Organize small groups to reach consensus and then begin large group discussion again.
- Refocus the discussion, identify real concerns, and reframe the problem.

Weighted Voting

I'm all for the idea

- I'm willing to provide support
- I'd prefer not to support it