



TO DEVELOP EMPATHY: Role-Play Activity ('What if' scenarios)

Define two student groups into Left-handers and Right-handers groupings.

Then Announce:

"There has been an educational study ('the author' - fictional) investigated overseas that indicates that Left-handed people are smarter than Right-handed people. Do you have any personal experiences that agree or disagree with this statement?"

(The expected outcome is to get some students to feel marginalised from the majority of the main group)

De-briefing:

Explain that: "There is no such study and conclusions. It doesn't exist. It's a 'What-if'".

(Explain – Always be aware of who's telling the story in historical studies. Always be aware what source you are getting your information from – perspective / point of view varies when studying history)

Empathy Component:

Question 1: "How did the Left-handers group feel when they heard about the so-called 'educational study' conclusions?"

(Listen and respond)

Question 2: "How did the Right-handers group feel when they heard about the so-called 'educational study' conclusions?"

(Listen and respond)

CONCLUDE:

"Throughout history it has been clearly documented/recorded that when people migrated into cultures/countries that they have never experienced before (this also includes the indigenous people of the country that the migrants have arrived in) faced similar feelings and reactions - just like some of you have in this simple activity about 'empathy'."

"A person may have ideas about a race or culture that in actuality can be extremely different or totally incorrect to what the person is experiencing / understanding. Migrants throughout the world have faced and are still facing these kinds of challenges today. And that is: how a person thinks of them."

Discover more migration stories: <https://www.sea.museum/migration>