

Cubing: An Exercise in Perspective

Purpose

- To develop students conceptual understanding of a topic
- To develop students prewriting abilities
- To develop students paragraph writing skills

Teacher Instructions

1. Choose a topic in your discipline that can be considered from multiple perspectives. (e.g., The American Revolution in social studies, global warming in science, a literary selection in literature, the works of the mathematician Fibonacci)
2. Prompt your students to quickly examine the subject from a variety of perspectives:
 - Describe it
 - Compare it with something else
 - Associate it with something
 - Analyze it
 - Discuss it applications
 - Argue for it or against it

Ask students to record their answers on the attached Cubing Worksheet.

Other Suggested Uses

Consider using any one of the above perspectives for an extended writing activity. You may also split these perspectives among the class and have your students organize into small groups to examine the topic from their assigned perspective to share with the class.

Name _____

Date _____

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Topic: _____

Describe It

Examine the subject closely and describe what you see.

Compare It

What is it similar to? Different from?

Associate It

What does the subject make you think of?

Analyze It

Break the subject into parts; tell how it is made.

Apply It

Describe the subject's uses.

Argue For or Against It

Use any kind of reasoning, silly or rational, to take a stand for or against the subject.

In the space below, write a paragraph about the topic. Remember, the charm of cubing is that once you learn to cube, you can use it anytime, anywhere, and you are never at a loss for words!