

Forced Relationships

Speaking strategy focus:

Connecting, consulting an authority, implying, justifying, planning, synthesising and visualising

What is it?

Forced Relationships is a speaking activity that encourages students to use higher order thinking skills to create an analogy that will describe a situation.

Why use it?

Speakers make links between what they already know and to new information, in order to make sense of subject content. This creative exercise enables students to generate a range of analogies that provide links between two highly unlikely aspects. In doing so the students create a simple plan for their speaking, and use speech to clarify their own thinking.

How do you use it?

1. Model the development of a forced relationship. Select a comparison for the concept you wish to explore. For example: drawing a map and going on a first date (where drawing a map is the concept you wish to explore, and going on a first date is the comparison).
2. Groups brainstorm ideas suggested by the comparison (i.e. going on a first date).
3. Students record ideas on large sheets of paper or on blank overheads.
4. A representative from each group shares their comparison with the whole class.
5. Discuss the effectiveness of the various comparisons.
6. Provide opportunities for groups, then pairs, and finally individuals (over a series of lessons) to generate examples of forced relationships using learning area concepts. Encourage students to use a simple structure of justification, in which the statement of relationship is followed by two or three illustrations.

Possible adaptations:

- Groups could select from teacher-produced items for comparison. The activity can be scaffolded by limiting how much the items need to be 'forced' into a relationship, and by providing a limited bank of items to relate to.

“Group one, together, you need to come up with how a switch in a circuit is related to one of the following items...pressure, pipes, tap or water... group two, you’re trying to relate current to one of those items...”



Where and how could I use this Tactical Teaching Activity in my learning area?