

TASK TEMPLATES

F. Ranking

Description

Small groups work together to construct a ranking of members that all belong to the same category (e.g., most expensive American colleges, most popular college majors, most deadly diseases, etc.). When the group reaches a consensus about their rankings, they may compare their results to actual data. Note: this activity can also be based on more subjective rankings (e.g., most over-exposed celebrities).

Materials Needed

- a master list of ranked items based on a reliable source (e.g., US census, newspaper survey, etc.)
- a list of the same items in the incorrect order to be given to each group

Preparation

- Create the two lists noted above and make copies

In Class

1. Tell the students that the goal of the task is to rank the items in the list.
2. Remind the students that they must reach a consensus. Thus, one of the most important aspects of this activity is to practice the art of persuasion. In other words, students must be ready to justify their rankings.
3. Pre-teach any vocabulary or phrases that might be difficult for the students.
4. Give a time limit.

Further Suggestions

- There are many reliable sources that publish rankings. For example, *US News and World Report* and *Princeton Review* (e.g., Best High Schools, Best Colleges, Best Hospitals, etc.); *Consumer Reports* (e.g., Best Vehicles, Best Televisions, Best Computers, etc.).
- For rankings of a more subjective and humorous nature, try searching one of the many Top 10 or Top 5 websites (e.g., Top 10 Ways to Tick Off Your Waiter, Top 10 Soap Opera Clichés, etc.)