

Discussion Web

What is a Discussion Web and why is it important?

A Discussion Web (Alvermann, 1992) is a graphic aid that helps students think about a topic by looking at both sides of an issue before drawing a conclusion. A Discussion Web presents a controversial question or issue and provides spaces for students to write down evidence to support both points of view as a step in drawing an informed conclusion.

How can I use a Discussion Web with my students?

Introduce the central question for discussion and show students the Discussion Web form. Encourage students to talk about the two points of view on the web and have them record support for each point of view. Once the web has been filled out, ask students to form their own conclusions. Discuss their opinions and have them write their conclusion on their web.

Following is an example of a Discussion Web on rain forests.

<p>YES</p> <p>Rain forests are in a limited area and can't be replaced.</p> <p>Rain forests are the home to many animals and plants.</p> <p>Scientists learn from studying animals and plants.</p> <p>Rain forests are important for recreation.</p>	<p>Question:</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em;">Should Rain Forests be Preserved?</p>	<p>NO</p> <p>Land must be cleared to make farms.</p> <p>People need places to live.</p> <p>Roads must be built for settlers.</p> <p>Lumber is needed for building.</p>
<p>Conclusion:</p> <p>Rain forests should be preserved because they are beautiful, important to man, and cannot be replaced. Farms can be developed in other restricted areas.</p>		



Name: _____ Date: _____

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YES

Question:

NO

Conclusion:

