



ACTIVITY: 'THE FEATURE ARTICLE'

TIME: >one hour
SIZE: Large groups or whole of class
SPACE: N/A
RESOURCES: As required

The aim is to have students work together to create a unified project.

The result should be an appreciation that belonging to a process can be as valuable as belonging to a group, and comes with its own responsibilities and requires its own skill sets.

1. Set the scene: the large group/class is going to create a feature spread – such as one might see in a weekend newspaper's colour magazine liftout – about the Sense of Belonging in the school. This feature may be in the form of one large article that runs over a few pages; it may be made up of many smaller articles. Photographs, diagrams and illustrations can support the text. The final product will be laid out in a word processing program and printed out for distribution to the whole class (and even more widely if resources permit!).
2. Delegate tasks and roles. Help decide: Who will be reporters? Who and/or what will be the subjects? Who will decide the stories/content? Who will edit the stories? Who will set the copy deadlines? Who will interview and photograph the school soccer team, the debating team, and the staff about their Sense of Belonging? Can researchers go back through school records to see if there are former students from earlier decades who might be interviewed?
3. With the task underway, ask students to also monitor in themselves what being involved in this large task makes them think and feel.
4. Create the article, print it out, and come back together as a class to discuss the result and the process.



DISCUSSION SUGGESTIONS

- What did you think of the process when you first got your task? What do you think about it now? How do you feel about the finished product?
- What did you learn about a) your own Sense of Belonging, and b) about Sense of Belonging in people outside the class?
- How were decisions made during the process? Could this have been done better? Why/why not?
- What skills did you have to unexpectedly exercise during the process?
- What new things did you learn about yourself, or about Sense of Belonging, that you can apply in everyday life?