

Think.Discuss.Act

Podcast Paideia Seminar Plan

Big Idea: Time

Text: Albert Einstein Quote

Ideas, Values: Pattern, Science, Perception, Space

Think

Big Ideas Chat:

How might we perceive time differently (age, season, mental space, etc.)? Think about an event from your past in which time seemed to pass at a different rate than what might be considered normal. Did time pass more slowly or more quickly? How do you know?

Read Aloud:

Read aloud the text while family and/or friends listen.

Vocabulary:

Check to see if there are any words that need to be talked about before the discussion begins. Listeners or readers can use context clues to help figure out possible definitions or use a dictionary or device to get a formal definition.

Discuss

Pre-Process:

Share why you are having the discussion.

(Sample script from our classroom Paideia Seminars; modify to fit your household.)

*“Our discussion is a collaborative, intellectual dialogue about a text, facilitated with open-ended questions.”*

*“The main purpose of the discussion is to arrive at a fuller understanding of the textual ideas and values, of ourselves, and of each other.”*

Describe what you want to accomplish.

Set a Goal:

* + To balance the talk time
  + To refer to the text
  + To ask a question
  + To speak out of uncertainty
  + To build on others’ comments

Discussion Questions:

Opening (Identify main ideas from the text):

* + Why do you think that Einstein calls these things (past, present, and future) a stubbornly persistent illusion?
  + Why illusion? & Why stubborn?

Core (Analyze textual details):

* + How do we perceive time differently now than we did in the past before we all had easy access to watches or clocks?
  + What drives our need to agree on time?
  + Is an event that is happening somewhere else “real” if we are not there to witness it? How do you know?

Closing (Personalize and apply the ideas):

* + How are time and space alike and different? How do you know?

Post-Discussion Process:

* Ask each person what they liked most about the discussion.
* Do a quick check of the discussion goal.

Act

Post-Discussion Action

Transition to Action:

* Review and discuss key ideas that you heard, said, and thought during the discussion.

Brainstorm:

* Talk as a group about why we perceive time differently.
* How might you find a responsible way to perceive time differently?

Action:

* (Option 1) Make your own calendar. Think about how you might divide up the space to measure events and experiences in units. If you opt to use the measure of months, however, they must be different than what we traditionally know.
* Consider how the shift in measuring time might change the way you utilize time. When are you more productive, happier, and more fulfilled?
* (Option 2) Take a day and try not to look at the clock. Track how long it takes to from the moment you wake up until when you consciously or subconsciously look for the time. Make a note of when you look and then begin again. See how long it takes between glances. Also, note what changes you notice in your behaviors.
* Consider how the shift in measuring time might change the way you utilize time. When are you more productive, happier, and more fulfilled?

This Podcast Paideia Lesson Plan was created by:

Name: Terry Roberts

Organization: National Paideia Center

\*Text is attached if open-sourced.

\*Text is cited if it needs to be procured.

“People like us who believe in physics know that the distinction between past, present and future is only a stubbornly persistent illusion.” – Albert Einstein