

RAFT

OVERVIEW:

Homophily (Hah-mah-fill-y) is a powerful social force that can cause people to surround themselves with similar others (McPherson, Smith-Lovin, and Cook, 2001). Getting students to find natural ways to find similarities leads to higher performance levels along with an increased empathy and understanding of others.

Promoting a focus on finding similarities will:

- Allow students to build stronger relationships as they find more in common with someone than what meets the eye
- Encourage empathy and understanding of others' preferences, yet still build common bonds
- Promote deeper and more meaningful social networks
- Foster Teamwork

Having students find all they have in common will create an environment that allows students to take risks, communicate with more detail, value others, and create more authentic conversations.

DIRECTIONS:

Create an area that students can stand in. Use your imagination- It could be a raft, an island, a boat. Give students choice questions. For example- Sweet or Sour. If you like sweet things stay in the boat. If you like sour things jump out of the boat. Now find someone who chose the same attribute as you and expand your thinking on this. For example, I like sour gummies. I like them because they are shocking. As soon as I put them in my mouth, my cheeks start to tingle. My brain wakes up. Students still on the raft can still turn to each other and extend their conversations by focusing on why they like sweet things.

CHOICE IDEAS:

- Vanilla or chocolate
- Summer or Winter
- Cats or Dogs
- Real book or Kindle Reader
- Pen or Pencil
- Lake or swimming pool

