

Dotmocracy



In this strategy students work together through group vote to make **informed decisions**, to prioritise and reach consensus. It could be used in a Tutor Class, Year Group or Student Council to come to a democratic decision.

Dotmocracy gives every student an **equal chance** to have their opinion recorded even in the largest of groups.

- Ask a key question that the students will answer through the dot vote process.
- Divide the students into groups of 3 to 4 and ask them to brainstorm and deliberate potential answers.
- Students write their answers as statements on an A4 sheet. One student from each group will post these on classroom walls.
- An opportunity is given to students to orally clarify ideas to the rest of the group.
- Then ask the students to walk around the room to read all ideas and vote using dot stickers.
- Students have 2 dot votes and are asked to place a dot on the 2 statements they most agree with.
- A spread voting pattern may require the dot vote process to be repeated in order to gain consensus.
- A teacher guided discussion around the voting pattern could be of benefit to the students' understanding.

Tips

- Dotmocracy is useful for gaining an insight into a group's opinions or feelings.
- It can inform the next steps in the learning process.
- It is a useful tool in developing critical thinking skills.
- Feedback and discussion from the students at the end of this session is a key element of the learning.

Further Information

Further reading and support on implementing this strategy is available on www.jct.ie

Key Skills

- ▶ Managing information and thinking
- ▶ Managing myself
- ▶ Communicating
- ▶ Being literate
- ▶ Being numerate
- ▶ Being creative
- ▶ Working with others

Resources

- ▶ Small stickers for voting
- ▶ A4 sheets of paper for displaying responses

Room Layout

Important to leave space for students to access and review answers displayed on walls.

Assessment

Can be used to inform the next steps in the learning process

Supporting Homework

A homework exercise could be a written reflection on the student's learning as a result of the dot vote

