

Using Quotations

Purpose of Method

This method is a creative way to explore a concept or theory. Due to the collaborative nature of this exercise, the students are forced to think in a shared manner about their analysis and critique of a concept using four provided quotations and questions to guide them through.

Materials You Will Need to Prepare Ahead of Time

- four quotations that pertain to the concept being discussed
- copies of handout “Leadership Quotations” (Document #: TX001173) one for each group of students
- sheets of paper and a pens or pencils, one for each student

Using Quotations in Steps

1. Write the four quotations on the board.
2. Form the class into small groups of no more than four students each.
3. Distribute the handout “Leadership Quotations” (Document #: TX001173), one to each group. Tell the students to write all their names at the top of the paper.
4. Ask the students to choose one member of the group to be the reporter who will share the group’s opinions with the class at the conclusion of the exercise.
5. Instruct the students to consider the four quotations on the board and to answer the questions on the handout. All the students in each group are to record the answers to the questions.
6. Give the students approximately 4 to 5 minutes to consider each quotation, for a total of 15 to 20 minutes for the entire exercise.
7. When time is up, invite the reporter from each group to share with the class the group’s answers to the handout questions. Write their answers to each question on the board. Repetition is not only acceptable but expected!
8. Finally, lead the students in a discussion surrounding the four quotations and how they relate to the topic at hand, paying special attention to the words and phrases suggested by the students.

