



Equality vs. Equity Marshmallow Activity

Description

Students will learn the meaning of equality and equity through this interactive demonstration.

Duration: 20-30 minutes

Grade Levels: Middle, High

Objectives

1. Identify the meaning of equality and equity.
2. Recognize impact of inequity in our society.

Material List

(For every ~20-30 students)

1. 1 box of spaghetti
2. 2 bags of marshmallows
3. 5 paper plates
4. 5 index cards

Activity

Set up (5 minutes)

1. Draw a circle on all but 2 of the index cards, on the remaining two index cards, draw a square.
2. Place 6 marshmallows and 6 spaghetti noodles on 5 paper plates.
3. Divide students into 5 groups and give each group an index card and a paper plate with supplies.

Activity (10-15 minutes)

1. Explain to each group that their goal is to build the tallest structure possible with only marshmallows and spaghetti noodles.
2. Groups with a circle on their index card are allowed to request additional supplies. Groups with a square on their index card have to build with the supplies they were originally given.
3. Tell students they have 10 minutes to build their structure.
4. Set a timer for 10 minutes and tell the students to start building.

Discussion (5-10 minutes)



Discussion Prompts

- For groups who had limited supplies, was it challenging to meet the goal?
- Was it fair that some groups could ask for more supplies and others could not?
- How does this relate to social issues today?
- What does equity mean and how does it relate to this activity?

Example Photos

