



Four Corners Exercise Overview – Face-to-Face with Sample Exercise, Topic List, and Reflection Prompts

Objective: Encourage students to explore different perspectives and engage in active discussion by physically moving to different corners of the room based on their opinions or answers to a question.

Description: In the Four Corners exercise, students move to one of four corners of the room based on their response to a prompt or question. Each corner represents a different perspective or answer. This activity promotes critical thinking, discussion, and understanding of diverse viewpoints.

Steps to Facilitate the Activity:

1. **Introduction:**
 - Explain the purpose and objectives of the Four Corners exercise.
 - Emphasize the importance of exploring different perspectives and engaging in active discussion.
2. **Prepare the Room:**
 - Designate four corners of the room and label them with different responses or perspectives.
 - Ensure there is enough space for students to move around comfortably.
3. **Pose a Question or Prompt:**
 - Present a question or prompt related to the course material that has multiple possible responses or perspectives.
 - Example: "Which approach to solving climate change is most effective?"
4. **Student Movement:**
 - Ask students to move to the corner that best represents their response or perspective.
 - Encourage students to think critically about their choice.
5. **Group Discussion:**
 - Once students are in their chosen corners, facilitate a discussion within each group.
 - Ask students to explain their reasoning and share their thoughts with others in the same corner.
6. **Cross-Corner Discussion:**
 - After the initial group discussion, have representatives from each corner share their perspectives with the entire class.
 - Encourage respectful dialogue and consideration of different viewpoints.
7. **Reflection:**
 - Facilitate a reflection session where students discuss what they learned from the activity.
 - Encourage students to reflect on how exploring different perspectives can enhance their understanding of complex issues.

Example Four Corners Exercise

Course: Environmental Science

Question: "Which approach to solving climate change is most effective?"

Corners:

- **Corner 1:** "Government Regulation"
- **Corner 2:** "Technological Innovation"
- **Corner 3:** "Individual Action"
- **Corner 4:** "International Cooperation"

Student Movement:

- Students move to the corner that best represents their perspective on the most effective approach to solving climate change.

Group Discussion:

- **Corner 1:** Discuss the role of government regulation in reducing emissions and enforcing environmental policies.
- **Corner 2:** Discuss the potential of technological innovation to create sustainable solutions and reduce carbon footprint.
- **Corner 3:** Discuss the impact of individual actions, such as lifestyle changes and consumer choices, on climate change.
- **Corner 4:** Discuss the importance of international cooperation and global agreements in addressing climate change.

Cross-Corner Discussion:

- Representatives from each corner share their perspectives with the class.
- Engage in respectful dialogue and consider the strengths and challenges of each approach.

Reflection:

Reflect on what you learned from the activity

Other Possible Topics for the Four Corners Exercise

Themes in Classic Novels

- Question: "Which theme is most prominent in 'To Kill a Mockingbird'?"
 - Corners: "Racial Injustice," "Moral Growth," "Courage," "Compassion"

Causes of Major Wars

- Question: "What was the primary cause of World War I?"
 - Corners: "Militarism," "Alliances," "Imperialism," "Nationalism"

Ethical Dilemmas

- Question: "Which ethical theory best addresses the trolley problem?"
 - Corners: "Utilitarianism," "Deontology," "Virtue Ethics," "Ethical Relativism"

Artistic Movements

- Question: "Which artistic movement had the most significant impact on modern art?"
 - Corners: "Impressionism," "Cubism," "Surrealism," "Abstract Expressionism"

Impact of Media

- Question: "Which form of media has the most influence on public opinion?"
 - Corners: "Television," "Social Media," "Print Media," "Film"

Social Issues

- Question: "Which social issue is the most pressing in contemporary society?"

- Corners: "Income Inequality," "Racial Discrimination," "Gender Inequality," "Climate Change"

Forms of Government

- Question: "Which form of government is most effective in ensuring citizen welfare?"
 - Corners: "Democracy," "Monarchy," "Authoritarianism," "Socialism"

Economic Policies

- Question: "Which economic policy is most effective in reducing unemployment?"
 - Corners: "Monetary Policy," "Fiscal Policy," "Supply-Side Economics," "Job Training Programs"

Theories of Personality

- Question: "Which theory best explains human personality?"
 - Corners: "Psychoanalytic Theory," "Behaviorism," "Humanistic Theory," "Trait Theory"

Cultural Practices

- Question: "Which cultural practice has the most significant impact on social cohesion?"
 - Corners: "Rituals," "Festivals," "Marriage Customs," "Religious Practices"

Student Handout: Four Corners Exercise

Instructions:

- 2. Prepare for the Activity:**
 - Listen to the question or prompt presented by the instructor.
 - Think critically about your response or perspective.
- 3. Move to Your Corner:**
 - Move to the corner of the room that best represents your response or perspective.
 - Each corner will be labeled with different responses or perspectives.
- 4. Group Discussion:**
 - Discuss your reasoning and thoughts with others in your corner.
 - Share your ideas and listen to the perspectives of your peers.
- 5. Cross-Corner Discussion:**
 - Representatives from each corner will share their perspectives with the entire class.
 - Engage in respectful dialogue and consider different viewpoints.
- 6. Reflection:**
 - Reflect on what you learned from the activity.
 - Write a brief reflection (1-2 paragraphs) on how exploring different perspectives can enhance your understanding of complex issues.

Sample Reflection Prompts

- 1. Team Dynamics:**
 - "How did your team reach a consensus on the response?"
 - "What role did each team member play in the discussion?"
- 2. Reasoning and Perspectives:**
 - "What were the main reasons for your team's chosen response?"

- "How did discussing different perspectives within your team influence your decision?"
3. **Learning Insights:**
 - "What did you learn about the different approaches to solving climate change?"
 - "How did this activity enhance your understanding of the issue?"
 4. **Collaboration and Communication:**
 - "How did effective communication contribute to your team's success?"
 - "What strategies did your team use to ensure everyone's voice was heard?"