



Elementary/Secondary Social Studies Academic Circles

Topic: Law Making

Purpose	To create a fun way for adults to help their students learn Social Studies while working at home.
Materials	A small object or an item of sentimental value that will be the Talking Piece. Will need a piece of paper and something to write with for each person in the circle.
Set Up	Arrange everyone in the family to sit together in a circle in a space where nothing is in the middle of the circle
Steps	<p>Guidelines Read the Guidelines out loud to your children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This is our family learning circle. We are going to learn from each other by speaking from the heart, listening from the heart, say just enough, and trust you know what to say. <p>Opening Activity This is a fun activity to get started. The leader reads the laws below and asks everyone in the circle to take a step to the middle of the circle if they think the law is true. Leader then reveals the answer to the circle, everyone steps back into their places, and the next law is read to the circle. Repeat until all four are read to the circle.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Crazy laws around the United States</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In Indiana, it's illegal to ride your horse faster than 10mph. (TRUE) - It's illegal for Christmas decorations to be up after January 14th in Maine. (TRUE) - It is illegal in Waco, Texas, to throw a banana peel onto the street because a horse could slip. (TRUE) - In West Virginia, Road Kill may be taken home for supper. (TRUE) <p>Round 1 Watch the video, "I'm Just A Bill School House Rock" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FFroMQIKIag Read the following to your children and prompt your child to begin the round with their answers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Choose a person in the circle to imagine themselves as a Lawmaker. Have the person write on a piece of paper a Bill that they would create that would help someone they know. Encourage creativity and encourage the person to add detail why they would create the Bill. <p>Round 2 Read the following to your children and prompt your child to begin the round with their answers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tell us whether you would support the Bill, or oppose it, and why. <p>Round 3 Read the following to your children and prompt your child to begin the round with their answers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would anyone like to add or change anything to the Bill? (Write down the changes that are suggested by everyone in the circle) <p>Round 4 Read the following to your children and prompt your child to begin the round with their answers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read the final version of the Bill with new changes or original if no changes were needed. <p>Round 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have the leader act as the final part of the process, as President either sign or veto the Bill. <p>Closing: Have each person share something they learned about the lawmaking process.</p> </p></p></p></p></p>
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