

Diversity: Beneficial Or Harmful?

Task: Your tasks are to (a) write a group report on the issue, "Is diversity beneficial or harmful?" and (b) individually pass a test on the information from both sides of the issue. Your report should provide details of the advantages and disadvantages of diversity. A controversy about the value of diversity is raging. Imagine you are a committee of the top officials who are trying to decide whether or not diversity should be encouraged or discouraged. To ensure that both sides get a complete and fair hearing, you have divided the committee into two groups to present the best case possible for each side of the issue. Your thesis will be either:

_____ Diversity is a resource that has many beneficial influences.

_____ Diversity is a problem that has many harmful influences.

Cooperative: Write one report for the group of four. All members have to agree. Everyone has to be able to explain the choice made and the reasons why the choice is a good one. To help you write the best report possible, your group of four has been divided into two pairs. One pair has been assigned the position that diversity is beneficial and the other pair has been assigned the position that diversity is harmful.

PROCEDURE:

- 1. Research And Prepare Your Position:** Your group of four has been divided into two pairs. Each pair is to (a) research your assigned position, (b) organize it into a persuasive argument (thesis, rationale, conclusion), and (c) plan how to present the best case for your position to the other pair.
- 2. Present And Advocate Your Position:** Make sure your assigned position receives a fair and complete hearing. Forcefully and persuasively present the best case for your position to the opposing pair. Be as convincing as possible. Take notes and clarify anything you do not understand when the opposing pair presents.
- 3. Open Discussion (Advocate, Refute, Rebut):** Argue forcefully and persuasively for your position. Critically evaluate and challenge the opposing pair's information and reasoning. Defend your position from attack.