



Instant Philosophy

Not a Spoon



Play the following game: Pass a wooden spoon around a circle saying to each person “This is a spoon” to which each person says, “This is NOT a spoon it is a...” and mimes a new understanding of the object e.g. bat, instrument, walking stick, weapon etc.

Facilitation Questions

- Is this a spoon?
- What is a spoon?
- Must something be *used* as a spoon to be a spoon?
- Must something *function* like a spoon to be a spoon?
- Must something be *created* as a spoon to be a spoon?
- Must something be *designed* as a spoon to be a spoon?
- Must something be *intended* to be a spoon to be a spoon?
- Must something have the *appearance* of a spoon to be a spoon?
- Must something be *named* “spoon” to be a spoon?
- Must something have a *history* of being a spoon to be a spoon?
- Must everyone *agree* that something is spoon to be a spoon?
- Is a spoon whatever we *imagine* to be a spoon?
- Could anything be a spoon?
- In not, what are the basics requirements of being a spoon?
- Is that what we mean by spoon?

Concepts

What concepts, besides spoons, have we explored in this activity?

E.g. Existence, objects, properties, essence, use, function, creation, design, intention, appearance, name, history, consensus, imagination

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For time-strapped teachers
who want to give them the best start...

STEP ONE

STIMULATE



STEP TWO

AGITATE



STEP THREE

COGITATE



STEP FOUR

CELEBRATE

You managed to fit in philosophy today!

Cooking instructions: stimulate, agitate, cogitate... and celebrate!

1. Open packet and sprinkle a stimulating idea into a class of warm students
2. Stir things up: encourage the class to share different ways of seeing the stimulus
3. Once you have a morsel of disagreement, discuss that for five minutes or so
4. Take a moment to savour a tasty idea or skill arising from the conversation

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