

Opening Ideas

1. One Truth and Two Lies In groups of three present one significant event and two falsehoods/exaggerations. The task is to present the three events neutrally and for the others to uncover the true event using what ever strategies they find effective. Large group debrief around the strategies used and challenges faced in gathering evidence to support a conclusion –

too detailed
misfit between personality and the story
trial and error / process of elimination
gaps in detail

assumptions necessary
guesswork / instincts / human nature
natural / common sense
body language / delivery / physical evidence

2. Habits of Mind of a Historian (How we think – develop questions / uncover bias or assumptions / generate evidence / discover answers / make conclusions)

- Rules of thinking - avoiding and detecting bias (impartiality) / using a critical mind / neutral facts and interpretation / can there be one truth? “the truth?”
- A. Historical Significance
- B. Cause and Effect
- C. Causality (multiple causes) and the fallacy of single causation
- D. Continuity (in causes, effects, themes, evidence, etc.)

3. Open Me

4 Ways to Make Decisions

- A. Democracy – rule by many
- B. Consensus – rule by all
- C. Dictatorship / Tyranny – rule by one
- D. Oligarchy – rule by few / elite
- E. Anarchy?

4. The End of History – Francis Fukuyama – argued that when the Berlin Wall fell (the beginning of the end of communism in Europe) it marked the end of history. What was Fukuyama saying? What did he mean? Is the end of history possible?

5. What is History? – individual explanations / definitions