Dialog Book Activity 4

Purpose   Have students work in pairs to prepare fictional dialogue between a nonconforming thinker and a conventional thinker from his/her era in history.

Alternately, the students could construct a back-and-forth conversation between a nonconforming thinker and a group representing authority and tradition.

Alternately, the students could fabricate a sharing of ideas between two thinkers of different time periods in history.

Examples: What might be said between Socrates and his prosecutor at his trial, between Martin Luther and the pope in Rome in letters back and forth, between Elizabeth Cady Stanton and a local clergyman at afternoon tea, or between Voltaire and Paine (across time)?

Materials   Dialogue books for student pairs (Select and duplicate the appropriate booklet mastersheets to match the type of dialogue. Use the duplication sheet for a "Two-Person Dialogue" from Concept Lesson 5, or the alternative in which an individualist talks with a group in Concept Lesson 6.)

Procedure

1. Pass out the sheets and ask each pair of students to complete the identifying blanks with their names, the name of a nonconforming thinker, and the label for the conventional thinker (or for that person's society or reference group).

2. Teach students how to fold the page so as to turn it into a booklet. *If* you wish the dialogue narrative to alternate left and right, so that each of the two speakers' views will read down just *one* side of the booklet, you will need to model carefully for students.

center of booklet

<<<< SPEAKER 1 >>>	(space)
(space)	<<<< SPEAKER 2 >>>>
<<<< SPEAKER 1 >>>	(space)
(space)	<<<<< ETC. >>>>>

booklet's 2 folds

3. Point students to a specific historical situation. Ask them to be as creative as they can and to invent a fictional "back and forth" as they imagine it might take place between the nonconforming thinker and the conventional thinker (or accusers, or compatriots) in the situation.

(Optional) Students may role play their dialogues.