

## Intra-Act

### Purpose:

To help students learn how their own opinions may change and how to change the opinions of others through presenting solid arguments. Allows students to express their values and feelings in relation to a text and helps them learn to articulate their opinions.

### Procedure:

1. Choose a text that discusses a topic that students may have opinions about, such as something about Puerto Rico either remaining a commonwealth or becoming a state or something about disciplining/spanking children.
2. Have students create opinion statements that can be agreed with or disagreed with.
3. Choose statements that are controversial and place them in a chart, supplementing the students' suggestions with some of your own statements.

Controversial Statements		
1. Smoking cigarettes should be illegal like many other drugs		

2. Divide the students into small groups of four to six people. Appoint one person in each group to be team leader. The team leaders will head the discussions.
3. Have each group discuss the story for seven to ten minutes by summarizing it and asking questions to clarify their understanding of the text.
4. Have each group member discuss how the text affected him/her personally.
5. After sharing personal reactions, distribute a copy of the controversial statement chart that was created earlier in the activity to each student.
6. Have students fill in the names of the members of their groups in the top line and then respond to each of the declarative statements about the text by either agreeing (yes) or disagreeing (no). The students should also predict how other members of their group will respond to the same statements.

## Intra-Act

*continued*

<b>Controversial Statements</b>	Bethany	Ricky
1. Smoking cigarettes should be illegal like many other drugs	yes	no

7. Now allow students to share their reactions to the statements and to defend or question the positions of themselves and others.

More information on Intra-Act can be found in Richard T. Vacca and Jo Anne L. Vacca's work *Content Area Reading: Literacy and Learning Across the Curriculum* Sixth Edition or Linda L. Thistlethwaite's *Critical Reading Series Book B: Critical Reading*