



EduTrend Contents

P4C · FRIENDSHIP AND BELONGING · HIGH SCHOOL

Three Kinds of Friendship

Testing Aristotle's account of friendship

Ages 15–18

Level: Advanced

60 minutes

Circle and pairs · up to
30

Activity 05

Inside: activity at a glance · step-by-step session plan · facilitator notes · 3 student worksheets · assessment checklist

ACTIVITY 05 · AT A GLANCE

Three Kinds of Friendship

Students learn Aristotle's view from the Nicomachean Ethics that there are friendships of utility, of pleasure and of virtue or character, and that only the last kind is complete. They sort invented cases, including teammates, gaming friends, online followers and a lifelong friend, and enquire into whether his account still works today.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session students can:

- explain Aristotle's three kinds of friendship;
- apply the theory to cases;
- evaluate its strengths and limits;
- construct a reasoned position.

KEY WORDS

utility · pleasure · virtue · Aristotle · character · online

CURRICULUM LINKS

Philosophy: ethics. PSHE: relationships. Media studies: online communities.

1

STIMULUS

Share something to think about

2

THINK

Quiet thinking time

3

QUESTION

Create and choose a question

4

ENQUIRE

Reason together

5

BUILD

Agree, disagree, add

6

REFLECT

Last words

Materials (per class)

- Aristotle summary card
- Friendship case cards
- Question and thinking-move cards
- Worksheets 1, 2 and 3

Before the session

- Read the stimulus and note possible concepts.
- Prepare question and thinking-move cards.
- Set out a circle so everyone can see each other.
- Print the worksheets.

SAFETY

Everyone may pass. Discuss ideas, not people, and use the story or invented examples rather than personal situations.

ACTIVITY 05 · SESSION PLAN

Step by step

Stay neutral: ask for reasons, examples and counter-examples rather than giving your own view.

Time	What happens	Say or ask
0–10 min Stimulus	Introduce Aristotle's three kinds and the case cards.	<i>"What did you notice?"</i>
10–22 min Questions	Students create questions in pairs and vote on one.	<i>"Which question is most interesting to talk about?"</i>
22–52 min Enquiry	Enquire into the chosen question, building on each other's ideas.	<i>"Are some friendships better than others?"</i>
52–60 min Last words	Each person says one last thought or passes.	<i>"Has your thinking changed?"</i>

CHALLENGE CARD (print or copy onto the board)

Argue whether online friendship can be complete friendship.

ACTIVITY 05 · FACILITATOR NOTES

The philosophy in brief

In Books VIII and IX of the Nicomachean Ethics, Aristotle distinguishes friendships based on usefulness, pleasure and good character.

He argues that friendships of character are lasting because they are based on who the friends are, not what they get.

Common ideas to listen for

- “Useful friendships are fake.” Aristotle still calls them friendships.
- “Aristotle’s view is about ancient life only.” It can be tested today.
- “Online friendships cannot be real.” This is open to debate.

Adapting the activity

Support

Use three cases only.

Stretch

Propose a fourth kind of friendship and defend it.

WORKSHEET 1

Our questions

Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Write questions the stimulus makes you wonder about.

Our questions

Question	Who asked	Votes

WORKSHEET 2

Sort the cases

Apply Aristotle.

Sort the cases

Case	Utility, pleasure or character	Why

WORKSHEET 3

Last words

Before and after.

Can an online friend be a true friend? Before the enquiry I thought... Now I think... because...

FOR THE TEACHER

Assessment checklist

Use during the session. One sheet covers up to eight students; copy as needed.

Student	Asks a philosophical question	Gives reasons and examples	Listens and builds on others

Suggested codes: W = working towards · E = expected · G = greater depth

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

Three Kinds of Friendship is a sample activity from the EduTrend Contents P4C Friendship and Belonging programme (high school, level: advanced). Every activity in the programme follows the same format: a practical challenge, a clear session plan, facilitator notes and ready-to-print worksheets, so that teachers, club leaders and parents can run it without extra preparation.

Full 15-, 20- and 32-week programmes are available from EduStore at edutrend.org.

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