



CLASSROOM VIDEO • VIEWING GUIDE

TEACHING STRATEGY: BAROMETER

Overview

In this classroom video, English language arts teacher Jonathan Dee introduces the Barometer teaching strategy with his students during the first week of the school year. This teaching strategy helps students share

their opinions by asking them to line up along a continuum based on their position on an issue. This approach makes a wide range of opinions visible and helps engage students in dialogue.

Questions to Consider

1. At **0:29**, Mr. Dee says, “I’m just getting to know my students here, the first week of school, and there’s a lot of students: they don’t necessarily know each other very well, but if they can respect the different opinions, hopefully with

this Barometer activity, it will be a great way to encounter the really serious units that we will see in 8th grade.” How might you use a Barometer activity to build community and trust in your classroom?

2. What spatial constraints would you need to consider for this strategy to be successful in your classroom?
 3. At **2:09**, a handout Mr. Dee created to accompany the lesson appears on screen. What is useful about having students fill out such a handout before engaging in a Barometer activity? What changes would you make to such a handout to meet your students' needs?
-

Featured

Jonathan Dee

Teacher

8th Grade

Cameron Middle School

Framingham, MA

Video Goals

- **Observe** how the Barometer teaching strategy can be used early in the school year to build awareness and appreciation of a wide range of opinions in the classroom.
- **Consider** how you might use this strategy in your own classroom.
- **See** the Barometer teaching strategy in action.

Lesson Resources

- [Teaching Strategy: Barometer](#)