



Diamond ranking template (9 item)

KS5 > Language library > Contemporary language change > Tart mini-investigation diamond ranking template

How it works This resource is an oven-ready diamond ranking grid template. Type into the boxes the 'things' you want students to rank in some way: the most important quotations in a scene or of a character; the most significant themes in the whole or part of a novel; the events that create the most tension, etc. It can also be used in non-fiction contexts, such as ranking the possible solutions to a local environmental problem, ahead of writing to argue or persuade, or a council meeting role play.

The most important idea goes at the top of the diamond, then the next two most important, then the next three, and so on down to the single least important idea. This 'bunches' ideas in a way that can be more meaningful – er, and less time consuming - than putting them in rank order. It encourages students to think critically and carefully about the text or situation, and to commit to a position on it.

Try this! There are different ways of using this resource. You could print off the completed sheet, cut out the cards and have small groups of students sorting them manually, placing them into the diamond shape through discussion and negotiation.

Or this! Alternatively, if you project the completed sheet onto an interactive whiteboard, you can get students moving the text boxes around digitally. They just click on the box and drag it to the position they want it on the diamond.

Or this! Other popular options include printing off a blank template sheet, enlarging onto sheets of A3 and getting them laminated. With a couple of packs of OHT pens, you now have a wipe-clean perma-resource. You can either give the students the list of themes or quotations or whatever to write in, or you can use this blank sheet to get them deciding on their own box contents.

You can add a certain *je ne sais quoi* by giving the students more 'cards' than there are spaces on the grid. This gives students the extra task of actively rejecting some ideas. I also like giving them one or two blank cards so that they can swap an idea or two for something they think is better. All variations on the same theme.

5	3
3	4
4	2
3	2
1	

1	2
2	3
3	3
4	4
5	