Forum play

The Forum play has been a way of involving students to help other students in conflict situations. Teachers collect situations where conflicts between students are present. Teachers make stories and create a somewhat different story for the students so that no one will recognize themselves.

The students get different roles to act the story. While they are acting in front of their the class, the class mates get the task to say stop and change place with one of the actors to continue the story. The new actor now shows how he or she can change the situation by strengthening the victim or stopping the violation. The students choose the role they will change and the role can be changed many times by different students. The experiences they get from acting will be analyzed in a summery discussion.

This method can be altered in different ways, e.g. the teacher presents a story in parts and students have to take stands together and follow the story. The decisions have an impact on the following story.

Example of story :

The students are waiting for the teacher to open the class room and start the lesson. almost all the students are there in a corridor. One lonely student arrive and get comments about his or her look from the class mates but no greetings.

Act the situation. Change the situation by acting one or several of the waiting students and acting the lonely student as the result of a different behaviors. Talk about what it does to a person just to say hello or give a friendly smile to someone who looks afraid or worried.