



# TOOLBOX OF IDEAS

## ***Three-Index-Card Discussion***

**Purpose:** Occasionally, it seems that no matter what you do to promote democracy, you end up with a class that is somehow unbalanced in a way that affects discussion: too many boys and not enough girls (or vice versa), a group that is heterogeneous in social power, or simply a group with some introverts and some extroverts. In order to promote more equal sharing in these groups, you can use a method found in NCTE's 'Teacher's Notes' called the 'three-index-card discussion' by Jeffrey Wilhelm, author of "*You Gotta Be the Book*" and *Action Strategies for Deepening Comprehension*.

**Materials:** Index cards, copy of text being discussed and a pen/pencil for each student

### **Directions:**

- Students sit in a circle
- Each student receives 3 index cards
- Before discussion, students write a response statement on two of the cards. They can only take up one side of the card and must cite a piece of the text they read and a response to the text (see back of this sheet).
- Students save one card to be filled out during the discussion upon which they write a direct response/connection to someone else's response that they hear.
- Students are told that for each turn they take they must throw their card in the center of the circle
- All students must use all of their index cards.
- Once a student has thrown his/her cards, s/he's done.