

Equality vs Equity Activity

Below are some read-aloud scenarios. After reading each scenario, ask students to decide whether the situation illustrates equality or equity. To get students moving around, they can stand on opposite sides of the classroom depending upon their answers to each scenario. Ask students to share why they chose their answer.

Scenario: A school gives every student the same homework extension: everyone gets two extra days to finish an assignment.

Question: Equality or Equity?

Answer: Equality.

Teacher note: This treats everyone the same regardless of individual needs; equity would adjust time for students with different learning needs.

Scenario: A sports club provides free coaching for young people from lower income families.

Question: Equality or Equity?

Answer: Equity.

Teacher note: Resources are targeted to address unequal starting points so outcomes become fairer.

Scenario: A school provides all students with the same-size laptop, even though some students need adaptive software that requires more powerful machines.

Question: Equality or Equity?

Answer: Equality.

Teacher note: Equal equipment ignores differing accessibility needs; equity would supply appropriate devices or software.

Scenario: A mentoring programme pairs more experienced mentors with students from underrepresented genders in a subject to help close the achievement gap.

Question: Equality or Equity?

Answer: Equity.

Teacher note: Extra or different support is given where it's needed to level outcomes.