**The Alternative Server**

This activity shows students an easy way to practice finding alternative positions they can acknowledge and respond to.

**Materials**

Students must have at least a completed draft of a paper.

**Process**

1. As homework, assign students to search Web sites related to the problem of their paper, looking for arguments that complicate or contradict their own. Encourage them not to censor themselves, but to find as much disagreement as they can, no matter how silly it seems. Students should print the relevant parts of the site.

2. Put students in groups of three to share what they found and together select the three positions most worthy of acknowledgment in each paper.

3. As homework, each student writes an appropriate acknowledgment and response for each position selected by the group, whether or not they decide to add them to their paper.