Philosophical Chairs

\*After a student has a turn, he or she must wait until three people from the same side have had a turn. To help me keep track, each student will sit on the floor when they are done speaking. When the third person sits, the first one can stand up and rejoin the group.

\*Everyone must speak at some point during the discussion.

\*Before a student makes a point, he or she must summarize what the previous speaker said.

\* If students change their minds during the discussion, allow them to move to the other side. When they move, they must state what was said that made them change their minds.

\* Remember, we attack ideas, not people. It is unacceptable to say “I think what she says is stupid or crazy because”. Instead, we can say, “she says \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but I disagree because”.

The topic for today’s discussion is: “Is it morally acceptable to change a person's intelligence through surgery or medication?” We’ve spent plenty of time on this topic, so I expect everyone to have an opinion.

1. What is your opinion about this subject?
2. Why do you feel this way? What supports your opinion?
3. What qualifications do you think are necessary? (How old should the person be? Is there a limit to how smart people should be, or to how many people can have the operation? Should it be mandatory?)
4. How many times did you speak during the philosophical chair?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_