“What is the Harkness Pedagogy?”

In a Harkness class learning takes place through discussions held around a circular "Harkness Table.” Sitting at the table or in a circle, all members of the class must question, contribute, and contemplate **in order to learn and su**cceed. The Harkness pedagogy, places students at the center of the educational process; it fundamentally shifts the dynamics of the teacher-student relationship and places ownership **and initiative for learning on the student.**

This pedagogy promotes authentic student inquiry, equity, inclusion and the importance of diverse perspectives. Based on brain research, it is grounded in the principle that "the one that does the work does the learning" and goes beyond the mechanistic transmitting of information and experientially **teaches students how to learn.** In Harkness discussions, students engage with their classmates by asking questions and contributing their own thoughts. This is a process in which they must involve themselves to a much greater degree than they may normally be required; they may not simply write down what teachers say. They must **search for the ideas and information and then wrestle with that which they find. Students develop a sen**se of autonomy, empowerment, and appreciation for **diverse perspectives as all voices around** the table are encouraged and valued.