

Put Yourself On The Line

TIME: 15 minutes

GROUPING: continuing

TOOLS: none

MATERIALS: none

DEVELOPMENTAL TASKS:

Independence/Autonomy

Sense of Purpose

OBJECTIVES

1. To practice taking a stand among peers
2. To build appreciation for different opinions
3. To use a structure to promote critical thinking on curriculum topics and issues
4. To experience influence

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Ask the community to stand up.
2. Describe an imaginary line down the center of the room. Say the imaginary line represents a "continuum." Identify positions at either end of the line as "strongly agree" and "strongly disagree." State that the middle position is for those who have no opinion, choose to pass, are non-risk-takers, or are "moderates."
3. Tell the students to move to places on the line that express their feelings or opinions when you call out statements. Examples:
 - It's okay to talk to strangers on the street.
 - It's important to always please the teacher.
 - One should never climb dangerous mountains.
 - Always do what your friends do so you won't be left out.
 - Select lesson topics or current events; or have students suggest topics.
4. When the students take their place on the line have the ones near each other discuss why they are there. Pick one representative from each area of the line to report to the community.
5. Have the tribes meet to share feelings on a particularly controversial topic.

SUGGESTED REFLECTION QUESTIONS

CONTENT (COGNITIVE LEARNING)

- What did you learn?
- What did you see happen?
- Why is making your opinion public sometimes important?
- Why is recognizing individual opinions important?

COLLABORATIVE (SOCIAL LEARNING)

- Why is it important not to put down other people's opinions?
- Why might you not want to "take a stand" on a topic?
- What did the community do to help you feel comfortable about taking a stand?

DISCOVERING GIFTS (PERSONAL LEARNING)

- How did you feel about publicly taking a stand?
- Why might you have been tempted to change your position?
- What personal strengths kept you from changing your position?
- How are you a unique individual in this community?

APPRECIATION

Invite statements of appreciation (and recognition of gifts):

- "I appreciated it when..."
- "One thing I like about this group is..."