

Directions to teacher/facilitator:

Have a list of values problems prepared ahead of time. Make signs that say STRONGLY AGREE, AGREE, STRONGLY DISAGREE, and DISAGREE. Tape the signs in four corners of the room so that students can see them from a distance.

The activity begins by your reading aloud a values problem and then asking that students move to the area of the room that reflects their feelings. They physically have to "take a stand."

After each shuffle, you will want to ask for comments. For example, if only one student is agreeing while the rest are disagreeing, you may want to find out why. It is, however, suggested that you approach this with sensitivity and not be forceful about eliciting comments. Teachers are encouraged also to share their opinions AFTER everyone else IF they can do so without forcing their feelings on others.

The activity continues as long as time permits. It is important to follow up with a discussion as well as a written assignment on what was learned, using the journal for entries.

The following are examples of the types of problems that could be used:

1. Religion is important in my life.
2. It doesn't bother you if other people cheat on exams, but you don't do it.
3. There is an upcoming presidential election, and you haven't registered to vote. That's okay.
4. Between intelligence and appearance, you value appearance more. In other words, you would be in a relationship with an airhead as long as he or she was gorgeous.
5. Your unmarried twenty-year-old sister has made a decision to have an abortion. You support her and stand by her.
6. It's your first date with a person whom you find out has two children. He/She is single, however. You decide not to go out with the person ever again.
7. It is important for you to give money to churches and/or charities.
8. Smoking pot is okay.
9. You would rather be a leader than a follower.
10. Regarding your future career, making a lot of money is very important to you.
11. It's important for you to go into a job where you are helping those less fortunate. Or those who need help

12. You would seek professional help from a counselor (psychologist, etc.) if you were feeling continually depressed.
13. Being physically fit is a priority in your life.
14. When it gets right down to it, you would like to be famous for something (music, sports, politics, etc.).
15. The best way to deal with anger toward someone you love is to keep quiet about it and let your emotions calm.
16. It is important for you to have a job with prestige that brings you recognition and status.
17. Once you graduate from college, that's it. No more school.
18. Between going hiking and reading a good book, you choose the book.
19. It's important to you to contribute in some way to protect our natural resources.
20. Keeping up with current events is important to you.
21. A person has to be creative in order to be happy.
22. Between a large metropolitan area and a small rural town, you would choose to live in the small town.