

TAKING A STAND

Purpose: To have participants examine the values and perceptions that adults and youth have on more controversial issues.

Materials: Signs for the wall from “Strongly Agree” to “Strongly Disagree”

Time: 20-30 minutes

Procedure:

Let the participants know that they are going to take some time to examine how they feel about different issues. Point out that along the wall there are signs that read from Strongly Agree to Strongly Disagree and that they will be asked to come forward and stand somewhere along the continuum based on what they believe. Stress that no one has a right or wrong answer but that each answer is how they personally feel. “We are not here to judge answers but just to take a look to see how adults and young people may answer them.”

Choose which questions you would like answered out of the following. Begin with a few simple questions so people can get used to the activity:

- Chocolate ice cream is the best.
- Basketball is more fun to watch than football.
- Community service should be required for graduation from high school.
- The voting age should be lowered to 12.
- If I don't like someone in the group, I should stop my participation.
- Schools should provide information to students about safe sex practices.

Leader's Notes

In large groups these signs have also been put on the floor and a different group of participants were chosen to answer each question.

Remember, you want to reinforce that people are just stating their views, and make sure that no one gets attacked for their opinion.

- Adults need to be alcohol, drug and smoke-free to work with teens.
- Teens have different ideas than adults about what is fun.

After you have asked the continuum questions, facilitate the following discussion:

Discussion Questions:

1. What were some of the things you saw or heard when we did this activity?
2. What does this tell us about adults and youth?
3. What was one key learning for you from this activity?
4. How can we use what we learned when we are trying to work together in partnership?
5. How might you use this activity or what you learned in the future?

Leader's Notes

Be sure that as a leader you always pause long enough for people to think through their answer. Sometimes, counting to five very slowly gives enough pause time for people to think.

**Strongly
Disagree**

Disagree

Not Sure

Agree

Strongly
Agree