



TAKE A STAND

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Activity Description

During this activity, students will gain experience taking a stand on issues and justifying their choices through discussion.

Suggested Grade Level

Elementary, middle school, high school

Estimated Time to Complete

As a warm-up activity or as a closure activity during one class period

Objectives

Students will

- listen to a statement and make a choice as to their beliefs about the statement;
- justify an idea during class discussion with like believers on the topic;
- write a summary paragraph to present and justify response to a statement.

Materials Needed

- List of statements
- Signs: strongly agree, agree, undecided, disagree, strongly disagree
- Paper
- Pencils

Activity Procedures

1. Place the signs with words (strongly agree, agree, undecided, disagree, strongly disagree) around the room.
2. The teacher voices a statement: for example, “Everyone should stand and say the pledge” or “All students should be required to wear school uniforms.”
3. Students take a stand to show their beliefs on the topic by moving to the signs that indicate their responses.
4. Students converse with others with like beliefs to justify their choice.
5. A group spokesperson shares each group’s ideas.
6. Repeat the process with another statement.
7. At the end of the activity, have students choose one statement and write a summary of their ideas.