

Values continuum

An active learning method to encourage learners to listen to the opinions of others and develop reasoning skills.

Aims

- ▶ To develop listening and reasoning skills
- ▶ To consider the varying perspectives of an issue

What you need

- Small piece of paper or card per learner

What to do

Create a statement around a controversial issue you want to discuss with the class such as: "Violence is never justified in protests, either by protesters or by the police."

Ask learners to choose their position on this statement and write it on their piece of paper. Next, ask learners to rank this between one and five, with one being 'strongly disagree' and five, 'strongly agree'.

Ask learners to find someone who share their viewpoint and discuss the statement for three minutes. Then ask learners to move on to find someone whose position is one step removed from their own and discuss the statement, before finding someone who has a very different view from them. If learners change their mind at any point, they can write their new position on their piece of paper.

Finally come together and discuss the process as a group. How many learners found they had changed their position? What led them to change their mind? What have learners gained from this process?

Reflection and evaluation

What skills did learners feel they developed during this activity?

What was challenging about the activity? How did they overcome the challenges?