



Physical Continuum Activity

For the physical continuum, display a sheet of paper with the word “FOR” on one side of the room, and “AGAINST” at the other side of the room.

Introduce your selected topic with some relevant background information.

Then read aloud a controversial statement, for example:

“It is in the interests of the British public for everyone in Britain to have a biometric identity card”.

Individuals who agree completely with the statement should then stand at the FOR side of the room and those that disagree completely should stand at the AGAINST side. Those that aren't so sure how they feel should stand somewhere along the continuum depending on what views they do have on the topic. Once the whole group is standing somewhere in the continuum, ask whether anyone wishes to share why they are standing at a particular point.

Additional notes:

- This is a great method to initiate a discussion as it will give you, the facilitator, an idea of the views the group currently hold on a particular issue.
- This activity helps build the participants' confidence to share their views without the pressure of committing themselves on paper to begin with.
- At the start of the activity, let the group know that there will be opportunities to move within the physical continuum at specific points during the discussion. This will encourage them to reflect on what they have heard during the discussion from each other
- To initiate the discussion, you can encourage those who are standing at either end of the physical continuum to explain why they are standing at those points. These individuals are more likely to have the stronger views on the chosen topic.
- Encourage those who are standing in the centre to share the reasons why they are standing at that point. If they respond that they do not know enough about the topic yet to know either way how they feel about it, tell them to base their opinion on the background information you have already provided before you read the controversial statement.