



Policy Making Activity

The aim of this activity is to create a government policy on a chosen topic. An example of a topic could be about obtaining and keeping a record of the genetic profile of the entire British public.

Read out a question to the whole group, for example:

**Should the government keep the genetic profile of the British public?
Why?**

In smaller groups, participants must now take on the role of the government. They must consider all the information they have gathered from previous activities, and come to an agreement on the final policy.

The groups may wish to start by writing a set of guidelines. In the example above, they can write guidelines about the use of genetic profiles, which can then be summarised to create their policy statement.

Once they have decided on a policy statement, they can present this back to the rest of the other groups. Their presentation can take the form of a speech set in the House of Commons, a news broadcast, or a live radio interview. During their presentations, the presenters continue to take on the role of the government, while the audience now takes on the role of the general public.

Additional Notes:

- A policy is “a plan or course of action intended to influence and determine decisions, actions and other matters” as defined by the Free online dictionary.
- A clause is “a distinct article, stipulation, or provision in a document” as defined by the Free online dictionary.
- This is a great activity to do at the end of a discussion, as participants will be able to use all the information they have collated in previous activities to make an informed decision together as a group. They should be able to express their views more confidently at this stage.
- After some discussion of the topic, if participants in a group still do not agree on a policy, ask them to take an anonymous vote. Use the majority vote as the foundation of their policy and build upon it by adding clauses agreed by the whole group.