



Top or Pants Idea

Read aloud a controversial statement, for example:

“Nuclear products should not be used at all, either for peaceful energy production or threatening means”.

Ask the pupils to consider whether they agree or disagree with this statement.

Individuals who mainly agree with the statement should then collect a Top sheet. Those that mainly disagree with the statement should collect a Pants sheet. Each participant should only have one sheet between them.

On the sheets, participants must draw or write the reasoning behind their decisions. Why do they think the statement is a Top idea? Or, why do they think it is a Pants idea?

They can then decorate their tops or pants. Ask them to cut their tops or pants out and hang them on a “washing line” stretching across the room using washing pegs.

This washing line will allow people to immediately see the overall view of the group from afar. On closer inspection they will be able to see specific reasons behind these opinions.

Additional notes:

- 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.
- Ensure the Tops and Pants are one generic colour to prevent people’s choice being influenced by colour.
- You can find an example of a Top and Pant sheet in the resource pack which you can use, or create your own version.