



YOU PART

Engage. Connect. Empower

MOVING DEBATE

FACTS

GOALS

TOPICS

ADDITIONAL INFORMATIONS

MATERIALS

PREPARATIONS

INSTRUCTIONS

MOVING DEBATE

FACTS

Age of participants: at least 15

Number of participants: 4-30

Duration: 20-45 minutes

GOALS

The main aim of this method is to encourage participants to express their views on the chosen topic, to give them the opportunity to reflect on their views and to keep or change their opinions based on the arguments of their peers.

TOPICS

The method can serve as an introduction to any of the topics connected to global issues, e.g. social injustice, consumerism, climate change, migration, gender equality, etc.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATIONS FOR THE FACILITATOR

The facilitator can use this method to assess how much knowledge participants have on a topic or what their attitudes are towards a particular issue. Thus, the method can serve as a starting point for further work with participants and allows the facilitator a) to quickly assess participants' level of knowledge on a given topic; b) to prepare in advance for any possible disagreements within the group (especially when discussing sensitive or controversial topics).

Tip: This method can be used also as “getting to know each other” or “ice breaker” activity. You can prepare some statements that are related to participants’ travel to the event (e.g. time needed for the travel, means of transport) or to their familiarity with the topic/issue etc.

MATERIALS

A4 papers with marks AGREE and DISAGREE

PREPARATIONS

- Choose a topic that you would like to discuss with your participants and prepare 5-8 statements connected to it (e.g. some statements can be based on verified facts, some can be more open-ended, some can be more personal, some can be linked to the mainstream opinion in society, others to possible alternatives, etc.)
- Prepare an empty space where participants can move from one side to the other. Place a mark (A4 paper) with the word “AGREE” on the wall on one side of the space and a mark with the word "DISAGREE" on the other.

INSTRUCTIONS

Step 1

Explain to the participants that you are going to read aloud some statements on the chosen topic. They are asked to express their agreement or disagreement by moving to one side of the room or the other, following the corresponding markings (AGREE/DISAGREE). If they strongly agree/disagree, they should move to the point closest to the tag. If they do not agree/disagree so strongly, they should move to the point that best reflects their opinion. If they are not sure, they can stay somewhere in the middle.

Before you start, also explain the basic rules to them (you can also write them on a poster and put it on the wall):

- After each statement, take a few seconds to move to your position in silence.
- Do not comment on the other persons' positions.
- When presenting your arguments, be quick and as clear as possible.
- Listen to the arguments and take time to consider your own opinion.
- Respect the other persons' arguments and do not evaluate or question them.
- If you decide to change your opinion, change your position in the room.

Step 2

Read out loud the first statement and ask participants to move to the point that best reflects their opinion. Encourage them to put themselves in a place that reflects their opinion, rather than following the majority. Pick some of them to share their arguments for their position (e.g. one participant who strongly agrees, one participant who strongly disagrees and a few others who partially agree or disagree with the statement, one or two in the middle). Then ask all participants if any of them have changed their minds - in that case they can change their position in the room. Make sure that you give a chance for presenting their arguments to different participants, especially those who are more shy or reserved.

Continue with the statements, repeating the process for each one.

Step 3

Invite all participants to stand in a circle and ask them how did they find the activity. Ask them how it was for them to express their opinion - whether it was easy to decide, whether the opinions of others influenced their decision for the position in the room, whether they changed their opinion and position at some point, etc. Ask them which statements they strongly agreed/disagreed with and which they were hesitant to answer. Ask them if they have learned anything new from listening to other participants' arguments.



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