

Value Connection THERMOMETER

***Note: Open space required for this activity**

Instructions

1. Ask students to get out of seat and stand in open space
2. Explain that there is a thermometer in the middle of the room/space one side is “agree” and the other side is “disagree” the middle of the room is “neither agree nor disagree”.
3. Tell students that statements will be read out to them. Depending on the degree to which they agree or disagree they will choose to stand somewhere on the thermometer between the “agree” side of the room and “disagree” side of the room.
4. While discussing the statement, they can choose to move on the thermometer at any point.
5. Begin the activity with a mock statement for practice “Chocolate is the best ice cream flavor” ask students to place themselves on the thermometer.
6. Continue with the statements below. Choose number of statements based on time allotment of activity.
7. Follow up each statement with corresponding prompt questions. Add prompts as necessary.

Statements

1. Around the world, people’s values should be the same.

- a) Would someone from the agree side of the room like to share why they are standing where they are?
- b) Would someone from the disagree side of the room like to share why they are standing where they are?
- c) Would anyone else like to share why they are standing where they are?
- d) Why do we often believe our values are the best values to have? Why are some people’s values different?

MYTH BUST: People’s values are a product of their culture, society, location and upbringing. While values differ between people, most often our values seek to do good by ourselves and others. It is important to try and understand each other’s values in order to understand how we can live harmoniously together.

2. Social networks provide us with the support necessary to advance in relationships, academics and work.

- a) Would someone from the disagree side of the room like to share why they are standing where they are?
- b) Would someone from the agree side of the room like to share why they are standing where they are?
- c) Would anyone else like to share why they are standing where they are?
- d) What are the benefits of having strong social networks? What are some of the different social networks?
- e) We all benefit from social networks- how are you a supportive component of someone else’s social network?

3. It's hard to help improve your community- especially when you are young.

- Would someone from the middle like to share why they are standing where they are?
- Would someone from the agree side of the room like to share why they are standing where they are?
- Would someone from the disagree side of the room like to share why they are standing where they are?
- What are some things you can do as a youth to help improve your community? Can you think of something you can do by yourself and something you can do collectively?

MYTH BUST: Children and youth are essential to the well-being of communities and often have positive impacts that they are not aware of. Through making even small contributions like planting seeds in the front garden, speaking with local politicians or participating in community events, youth can make their presence heard and influence great positive change.

4. Our families only include people that are related to us by blood.

- Would someone from the agree side of the room like to share why they are standing where they are?
- Would someone from the disagree side of the room like to share why they are standing where they are?
- Would anyone else like to share why they are standing where they are?
- Who do you consider to be a part of your family? What criteria do you place on people when you decide they are part of your family?
- How do you think you have shaped your ideas of what family is?

MYTH BUST: People define 'family' in varying terms. The US Bureau of Census defines it as: "A family is a group of two people or more (one of whom is the householder) related by birth, marriage, or adoption and residing together; all such people (including related subfamily members) are considered as members of one family." Often times though, people will include close friends and the extended families of in-laws and step-parents.

5. I can value and appreciate nature without spending any time within nature.

- Would someone from the disagree side of the room like to share why they are standing where they are?
- Would someone from the agree side of the room like to share why they are standing where they are?
- Would anyone else like to share why they are standing where they are?
- How does experiencing nature help us understanding and appreciate it more? (Answer: When people spend time in nature they are able to see and experience firsthand the interconnectedness of nature and how as individuals we fit in.)
- How can someone gain an appreciation for nature without spending time in nature? (Answer: Studying nature, its ecosystems and current environmental issues can help us see how nature is interconnected.)
- How can learning in nature be encouraged more within our school system?

6. Improving our capacity for compassionate and empathy helps in difficult situations AND to take accountability for how our actions impact others

- Would someone from the middle like to share why they are standing where they are?
- Would someone from the agree side of the room like to share why they are standing where they are?

- c) Would someone from the disagree side of the room like to share why they are standing where they are?
- d) In what way does loving others, respecting our ecology and seeking social and economic justice allow us to have a greater understanding of how we affect others in the world?
- e) How would this improve our own communities?
- f) If we know how our actions impact others in the world, why do we not change them?