

Where do You stand ?

You may know this exercise. All participants are asked to come to the middle of the room. On two walls opposite each other are two posters. One says "yes", one says "no". A trainer or facilitator shows the participants a statement dealing with an aspect of a specific subject and then asks them to decide, spontaneously, - do you agree or disagree with this statement? Participants then move towards the poster that best expresses their opinion. Once two groups have formed, they explain to each other why they chose to agree with "yes" or "no" and discuss the issue until the trainer stops the discussion and presents another statement.

Finding arguments to explain their opinions to each other is a way for participants to start reflecting about a subject and the different arguments presented. This exercise is also about listening to one another, learning more about oneself and taking a stand.

'Where do you stand' is an exercise which, like many, can be played in different ways, with different objectives and on a variety of issues.

International youth activities: Where do you stand?

1. International meetings are a world apart.
2. The learning effect of an intercultural experience can hardly be transferred to a local reality.
3. It is enough to just bring people together in order to have an intercultural learning process.
4. International youth seminars are only interesting in the coffee breaks.
5. A youth exchange? Better spend the money on a new coffee bar for the youth centre!
6. A sport competition makes the most effective youth exchange.
7. Youth exchanges don't teach you anything you can use in everyday life.
8. International youth exchanges don't have any local impact.
9. A youth exchange is the best youth work tool.
10. Work camps are more effective than youth exchanges.
11. European volunteers use up too much supervision and vital resources to be useful.
12. European volunteers should volunteer in their hometown where they can really contribute.
13. You meet more people on the internet than in international youth activities.
14. Minorities benefit most from international youth activities.
15. Everyone should fall in love during an international youth activity.

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