



Title: Point-Counter-Point
Topic: Open-Mindedness

Instructions to facilitator: Have students stand-up and create a line. This can be a whole class activity, or you could do with a portion of your class at a time. Present students with a decision based question such as “If scientists developed treatments that allowed humans to live forever, should we use it?” The first student must give an affirmative response and give an explanation as to why. The next student must respond in opposition, and their opposition must be in response to the previous student’s statement.

Instructions to participants:

Stand-up and create a line. The line can curve around the classroom if necessary. I am going to ask a question that requires you to take a stance. The first student must respond in support of the question and explain why. The second student must oppose the question, and your opposition must be (at least in part) in response to the previous student’s statement. The third student will support the question, responding to the previous student’s opposition. We will continue that pattern until we reach the end of the line.

Sample Questions:

1. *If scientists developed treatments that allowed humans to live forever, should we use it?*
2. *American Colleges and universities do not mirror the diversity of America. Should something be done to address this and how should this be done?*
3. *Should countries secure their borders with man-made barriers (walls, fences)?*
4. *Should schools provide access to gender neutral restrooms?*
5. *Should schools censor literature choices made by teachers?*

After the activity is over, debrief with your students:

1. Did you find this task difficult? Why or why not?
2. Why is it important to consider points of view we may disagree with?
3. What does it mean to be an open-minded individual?