



Four Corners, Stand and Declare (from David Sawyer)

The teacher makes a statement to the group, to which students can strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree. Groups form around corners of the room that are labeled with responses to the statement. Members from each opinion group are asked to explain their stance on the issue. Students must listen carefully, and can change/move positions if they change perspectives. This activity helps everyone learn to disagree without being disagreeable.

Sample statements include:

- Service learning is improving student learning.
- Charity work does little to help improve society.
- Service learning is fun.
- The goal of service-learning programs is the development of the student.
- The goal of service-learning programs is the transformation of the community.
- Service learning makes a lasting impact on the students.
- Service learning makes a lasting impact on the community.

Anticipatory Service Questions Poles

People define “service” in many different ways. The sample acts that follow can be presented one at a time, then students decide whether the following acts classify as “service” by moving to opposite ends of the room (front for “yes” and rear for “no”).

1. Joining the armed services
2. Providing dinner once a week at a homeless shelter
3. Chaining yourself to an old tree as loggers attempt to cut it
4. Leaving your car at home and biking to work every day
5. Giving \$50 to the United Way
6. Walking a frail person across a busy street
7. Writing a letter to a congressperson about the dangers of smoking
8. Giving blood
9. Tutoring a migrant worker with English lessons
10. Adopting an eight year old boy
11. Quitting your job to move to a monastery and meditate for a year
12. Working as a state legislator /law maker
13. Voting
14. Teaching

* Please change all of these sample statements to better fit your classroom.