

Give It Up

Aim

that young people debate their understanding and attitudes to youth participation

Age

10 years and older

Time

30 minutes

Materials

statement cards on youth participation, flipchart sheets, blu-tack

Take Action!

Ask other young people in your youth group, school or local area to take photos, draw/paint pictures or write creatively about what participation means to them. If possible ask young people from minority groups to contribute. Hold an exhibition of the all the contributions and invite members of the local community to visit it.

What to do

Cut out the statement cards and shuffle them. Give each person a card, making extra copies if necessary. Give everyone a couple of minutes to read their card. Explain that everyone has to start moving around the room. When the leader shouts freeze, participants have to debate the participation issue that's on their card with the nearest person to them. They can choose to agree or disagree with the statement. After a couple of minutes, the leader shouts move. The pair swap cards and move off with their new card. The leader calls freeze three or four times in total. Each time the participants debate what's on their new card.

Hang up two sheets marked agree and disagree. Now explain to participants they are to decide if they agree or disagree with their statement. The first person sticks their card onto the appropriate sheet. The following participants do likewise but can also move one other statement to the opposite sheet. Nobody comments during this stage.

Now ask if people are happy with the placement of the cards. Why? How did people feel when their card was moved? Ask the group if they can come to an agreement over where the cards should be and how.

Alternatively, the statements could be used for a moving debate.

Starter Games from Around the World

Ha Do Do (India)

Divide into two teams separated by a line of shoes. A member of one team goes over to the other side chanting 'ha do do' and tries to touch the other team and run back to their own side. The other team has to try to hold them down. The other team then has a go.

Source: Prodeepta Das (1999). *Geeta's Day: From Dawn to Dusk in an Indian Village*.

Give It Up

Continued

Statement Cards

Participating makes me feel good about myself

I have important ideas that I would like to share

By taking action I can have an impact in my own area but not on people in other countries

I don't have enough information or experience to participate

Young people know best what affects them

It's only worth participating in something if it is fun

I have very few opportunities to have my views heard

I don't have the right to vote so politicians don't listen to me

Most young people I know aren't interested in participating

Participation means coming together with my friends to take action

Young people can participate by themselves, there's no need to include adults

It's easy for young people to participate

Participation is only for people who do well at school

Most adults don't like letting young people make their own decisions

I learn new skills when I'm participating

It really annoys me when people don't use their right to vote. If you don't vote you can't complain about the government that you get.

Participation means co-operating with other young people to make decisions and solve problems

I don't have enough time or money to participate

Most young people are happy to be told what to do

Participation means that I can make a difference to the lives of young people in other parts of the world

