

Make a Statement

Aim

that young people express their own understanding of the concept of globalisation.

Age

All

Time

30 minutes

Materials

Newspapers, magazines, art materials, paper, copy of the statements.

Action

Why not display the posters in a public area? Libraries, supermarkets, churches and shopping centres are all good venues. Alternatively, organise a competition with the best poster receiving a prize. You may even be able to get some local sponsorship.

What you need to do

Use the statements for a moving debate. Place posters saying 'I agree' and 'I disagree' at opposite ends of the room. Bring the group into the middle of the room, read out one of the statements and ask the participants to move to the 'agree' or 'disagree' end depending on their opinion. If they are unsure, they can stay in the middle. Ask people on each side to justify their decision. If participants in the middle hear an argument they like, they can move to that side. Repeat with new statements.

Form small groups. Give each group a statement. Explain that the groups are to discuss the statement, whether they agree with it or not and how it relates to their understanding of how the world works today.

Using the newspapers/magazines and art materials, the groups should make posters to illustrate their understanding of the statement, or if they disagree with it an alternative to the statement. Display the posters.

Ask the large group to come up with their own definition of globalisation. Compare it with the definition given.

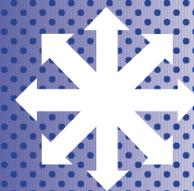
Globalisation describes the way in which people, goods, money and ideas are able to move around the world faster and cheaper than ever before. This is mostly due to better transport and technology and the fact that countries are more open to trading with one another.

Source: Trócaire (2001). Trade and Globalisation.

Concern Debates

The Concern debates have engaged young people in discussing world issues since 1984. For further information about the debates in your area, contact Concern at (01) 4177733 or debates@concern.ie.





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Statements for Moving Debate



Corporations are more powerful than countries

If trade, communications and travel contribute to the widening gap between rich and poor people, we should just stop

There's never been a better time to be alive

You don't need to be healthy and educated to earn a living

When I go down to my local supermarket, I can tour the world

Rich countries are not responsible for poverty in developing countries

Everyone is better off in today's world

You and I can't do anything about the widening gap between the richest and poorest people in the world

Young people are more interested in football than nuclear war

Foreign investment in poor countries is essential for development

You only hear about poor countries when something bad happens

People who protest against corporate-led free trade are choking the only way out of poverty for the world's poor.

We need to protect our farmers against competition

Poor countries should be more responsible about protecting their environment

