

## Agree – disagree

**SPECIFIC ISSUE/S:** Any kind of issue

**PURPOSE/OBJECTIVES:** To allow people to explore their responses to a range of views; to listen to the opinions of others in a safe and non-confrontational environment.

**LENGTH:** 30 minutes

**GROUP SIZE:** Up to 20 people

**GROUP CHARACTERISTICS:** Any kind of group

**FACILITATOR KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS NEEDED:** Low level of facilitator knowledge; Low level facilitation skills sufficient

**RESOURCES NEEDED:** Agree/disagree cards; postcard-size cards; Example statements

### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Make postcard-size cards and write one statement on each; choose statements relevant to your chosen issue. Some examples have been provided.
2. Mark out a continuum with a large 'Agree' card at one end and a 'Disagree' card at the other. Hand out the statement cards to participants who offer to read one out; though allow people the right to pass. One person at a time stands and reads out the card that they have and places it on the continuum. They tell the group why it is in the place that it is, i.e. not just 'I agree' but 'I agree with this statement because ...'
3. When this person sits down anyone else who wants to can stand up and comment on the statement, either to support where it is, or to move the card to another position. They must explain why. Each speaker addresses the facilitator, not the group, then sits down. Any person who speaks can only talk about their own opinion—they can't ask questions or comment on what another person has said. Each person can only speak once on each subject. When each person who wants to speak on a statement has spoken, move on to another card.

Participants decide themselves when to read out their statement and place it on the continuum – i.e., don't invite particular individuals to participate, wait for them to decide that they're ready.

It is the facilitators' role to enforce the rules to ensure that the session is safe for people to express their opinions. The facilitator does not express an opinion on any of the issues.

The facilitator must acknowledge each speaker in the same way, so that they are not seen to be biased towards one opinion.

### Discussion points

When all of the cards have been placed the facilitator can then add any of their own comments. For example, in order to highlight a point of view that has not already been covered the facilitator may want to say, 'other people have said...'

This activity allows the participants to hear that people can have quite diverse views on issues that they may feel are very uncontroversial. It provides an opportunity for participants to examine their own views in the light of the other participants' comments.

**FACILITATION TIPS:** Any response is fine; note potential issues to bring up later.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:** Like minds, Like mine; Framework Trust