

WHERE DO I STAND?



Learning Intention: To promote deep-thinking and discussion on the definition and issues surrounding human dignity in our world.

Instructions

You will need two pieces of paper. On one of them, write down in large writing STRONGLY AGREE, and on the other STRONGLY DISAGREE. Place them on opposite sides of the classroom to create a continuum (you can also do this activity outdoors). Read aloud out each of the statements below, one at a time. After one is read, give the students time to position themselves along the continuum based on whether they strongly agree with the statement through to whether they strongly disagree. This activity is designed to encourage deep thought and discussion among your students. Please remind them that there is no right and wrong answers, rather, it is an opportunity for them to think about the concept of human dignity in our world, as well as within our own lives.

Statements

DIGNITY IS...

- Listening respectfully to someone who has ideas that are very different from your own.
- Feeling like your ideas don't matter.
- Recognising that prisoners are human beings.
- Leaving someone out from a group activity or task because they might have different opinions to yourself.
- Realising that even people who do terrible things have dignity.
- Apologising when you make a mistake.
- Distrusting someone because they practice a different religion than you do.
- Doing your part to make sure that all human beings have food, shelter, safety, opportunity and freedom.
- Knowing that you are important and that you matter.

MY EXPERIENCE WITH DIGNITY...

- I have always been treated with dignity.
- Someone I am close with has experienced being treated without dignity.
- I have witnessed others being treated without dignity.
- I have personally experienced being treated without dignity.
- I have always treated everyone with dignity.
- At some point in my life, I have disregarded someone else's dignity.
- If I see someone's dignity being disregarded, I step in and try to help.

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WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE?

- I believe that people who do not honour and recognise all human being's dignity don't deserve to be treated with dignity.
- I believe that violations of dignity are only a problem if it impacts me, my friends and my family.
- I believe no one can take away my dignity.
- I believe that not valuing human dignity can lead to a breakdown in everyone's access to freedom, justice and peace.
- I believe that treating all people with dignity is a faulty concept because not all people are valued equally.
- I believe that sometimes it is difficult to treat others with dignity.
- I believe that all human beings deserve to be treated with dignity, regardless of their class, race, religion, behaviours, beliefs, politics, sexuality etc.
- I believe that when "we honour the dignity of others, we strengthen our own" (Donna Hicks)
- I believe that we can all do more to incorporate dignity into our lives.

Reflection/Discussion

Using Think/Share, debrief with the students after the activity with the following questions:

- Which questions were easy to answer and which were more difficult? Why?
- How did it feel when you found yourself standing in the majority? In the minority?
- How did this exercise challenge your thinking and/or make you feel more strongly about your point of view?
- What have you learned about dignity? About yourself?