



28. Musical chairs

DESCRIPTION

The school community (administration, teachers, parents, local community representatives) will explore their beliefs and prejudices through an argumentation game. They will have the opportunity to develop and listen to different perspectives on a topic.



OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the activity are for the participants to:

1. listen carefully to others without making comments or interventions,
2. think analytically and critically,
3. develop arguments and counter-arguments for each controversial statement,
4. reflect on their personal beliefs.



EXPECTED OUTCOME (EO)

Upon completion of the activity, participants are expected to:

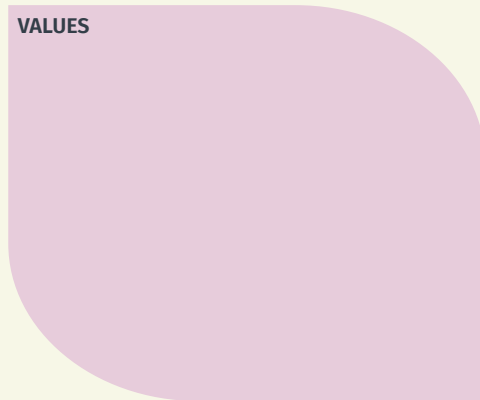
1. listen actively and without interference to someone's arguments,
2. think analytically and critically about all aspects of an issue before forming an opinion,
3. reflect on their personal beliefs and any prejudices on controversial issues.





Musical chairs

VALUES



ATTITUDES

- Respect
- 27 Gives space others to express themselves B
- 28 Expresses respect for different opinions, worldviews and lifestyles unless they violate human rights B
- Tolerance of ambiguity
- 50 Engages well with other people who have a variety of different points of view B

COMPETENCES FOR A DEMOCRATIC CULTURE

Skills of listening and observing

- 70 Listens carefully to differing opinions B
- 71 Listens attentively to other people B

Flexibility and adaptability

- 82 Modifies his/her opinions if he/she is shown through rational argument that this is required B

SKILLS

Knowledge and critical understanding of one's self

- 108 Can critically reflect on his/her values and beliefs I
- 110 Can reflect critically on his/her own prejudices and stereotypes and what lies behind them A

KNOWLEDGE & CRITICAL UNDERSTANDING

Activity steps

01

The trainer prepares the room by spreading out the chairs in pairs and placing them opposite each other.

02

The facilitator informs the participants that they will be listening to music. While the music is playing, they may walk or even dance. Then, when the music stops, they should quickly sit down in the chair closest to them so that they end up in pairs, one facing the other. The trainer will then read out a controversial statement (see examples below). The person who sat down first will have one minute to tell their partner their personal views on the statement. S/he can say whatever s/he wants. Their partner should remain silent and give no indication as to whether they agree with them or not. Then it is the other participant's turn to express their views on the same statement for a minute.

This process will be repeated several times, as the number of statements or as time allows.





Musical chairs

Activity steps

03

Place the chairs in a circle for reflection:

- How did you feel about the statements?
- How did you feel when listening to the other person?
- Did you want in some cases to respond or react? Why?
- How did you feel when you could not speak or react?
- Did what you heard from the other person make you reconsider your own position on the issue?

Evaluation/Assessment

Reflective discussion at the end.

Materials/sources

1. Equipment for playing music, e.g., CD player, laptop and speakers
2. Short list of controversial statements, no more than 5 or 6.

The activity is a variation of the "Musical Chairs" activity from the manual "Teaching controversial issues".

<https://edoc.coe.int/en/human-rights-democratic-citizenship-and-interculturalism/7738-teaching-controversial-issues.html>





Musical chairs

- Refugees must adopt the European way of life in the host countries.
- A country should first meet the needs of its citizens and then provide services to refugees.
- Host countries should ensure that basic subjects, such as mathematics, are taught in the mother tongues of refugee children.
- This country should be a transit country and not a destination country for refugees.
- Refugees should be employed in professional sectors that the host country needs.
- Those born in this country should automatically receive citizenship.
- This country must provide public places of worship for the religions of refugees.
- Schools should provide teaching of the mother tongues of refugee children.
- Girls should be forbidden to wear headscarves in school.
- Refugee children must learn this country's official language in preparatory programs and be enrolled in schools after they have mastered its basics.
- Schools should provide places for prayer for children of other religions.