

Grade 5 Drama: Spectrum of Difference/Fold the Line

Students stand in a single line. Explain that the line forms a type of continuum. One end of the line will be the “strongly agree,” area, while the other end will be identified as “strongly disagree.” The middle of the line represents all the moderate positions in the middle.

Read a practice prompt so that students can see how it works: “Cats make better pets than dogs”. Students should move freely to find their personal spot on the line. Encourage them always to think for themselves and to not follow their friends – this may take some practice!

Depending on your class, students may need numerous chances to practice with a few familiar/nonthreatening prompts. Some others may include:

- Chocolate ice-cream is better than vanilla
- Kids should have to clean their own bedrooms

When they are ready to move on to more thought-provoking topics, try these:

- School uniforms are a good idea
- All students should have to finish grade 12
- If you see someone cheating on a test, you should tell the teacher
- Countries who are the biggest contributors to global warming should have to invest more in the solutions

Now ask students to flip into their role and try these:

- This road is a good idea for my community
- Having a dump site close to my home is positive
- There will be long term, negative impacts on my community

When students have arranged themselves in the desired order, go down the line and ask each student to explain the reasons he or she chose a particular position. If students are attempting to ‘share’ a spot on the line, encourage them to have a quick discussion and decide who should stand where.

It is now time to Fold the Line! The line should be folded so that those with the most diverse opinions should be facing one another. You will end up with two lines facing one another. The folding component can be done with each statement, or saved for specific ones. Once folded, students should speak in role to share their thoughts, opinions, and feelings with the person directly across from them in order to attempt to persuade their partner.

Evaluation/Extension: Students may be evaluated based on participation and respectful listening. As an extension, students may be asked about what influences their choices and what may lead them to changes their opinions.