



EduTrend Contents

P4C · DIVERSITY AND DIFFERENCE · MIDDLE SCHOOL

Can We Disagree Respectfully?

Tolerance, respect and living with difference

Ages 12–14

Level: Intermediate

50 minutes

Circle and small groups
· up to 30

Activity 04

Inside: activity at a glance · step-by-step session plan · facilitator notes · 3 student worksheets · assessment checklist

ACTIVITY 04 · AT A GLANCE

Can We Disagree Respectfully?

Students read an invented scenario: a school council must choose one theme for a celebration day, and pupils disagree strongly. Some want music, some sport and some a food fair from different cultures. Students practise disagreeing respectfully and discuss what tolerance means. They create questions and enquire into whether we should tolerate everything.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session students can:

- define tolerance and respect;
- practise respectful disagreement;
- reason about the limits of tolerance;
- reach a group judgement.

KEY WORDS

tolerance · respect · disagree ·
difference · limit · community

CURRICULUM LINKS

Citizenship: democracy and
diversity. RE: living with different
beliefs. PSHE: conflict resolution.

1**STIMULUS**

Share something to
think about

2**THINK**

Quiet thinking time

3**QUESTION**

Create and choose
a question

4**ENQUIRE**

Reason together

5**BUILD**

Agree, disagree,
add

6**REFLECT**

Last words

Materials (per class)

- Scenario card
- Respectful disagreement sentence starters
- Question and thinking-move cards
- Worksheets 1, 2 and 3

Before the session

- Read the stimulus and note possible concepts.
- Prepare question and thinking-move cards.
- Set out a circle so everyone can see each other.
- Print the worksheets.

SAFETY

Everyone may pass. Discuss ideas, not people,
and use the story or invented examples rather
than personal situations.

ACTIVITY 04 · SESSION PLAN

Step by step

Stay neutral: ask for reasons, examples and counter-examples rather than giving your own view.

Time	What happens	Say or ask
0–8 min Stimulus	Share the celebration day scenario.	<i>"What did you notice?"</i>
8–20 min Questions	Students create questions in pairs and vote on one.	<i>"Which question is most interesting to talk about?"</i>
20–44 min Enquiry	Enquire into the chosen question, building on each other's ideas.	<i>"Can we disagree respectfully?"</i>
44–50 min Last words	Each person says one last thought or passes.	<i>"Has your thinking changed?"</i>

CHALLENGE CARD (print or copy onto the board)

Explain what respectful disagreement looks like.

ACTIVITY 04 · FACILITATOR NOTES

The philosophy in brief

Tolerance usually means accepting views or practices we disagree with.

Philosophers debate the limits of tolerance, such as whether we should tolerate views that cause harm.

Common ideas to listen for

- “Tolerance means agreeing.” It means accepting disagreement.
- “Respectful disagreement is weak.” It takes skill.
- “We should tolerate anything.” Most people see limits.

Adapting the activity

Support

Use the sentence starters.

Stretch

Ask: where should the limits of tolerance be?

WORKSHEET 1

Our questions

Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Write questions the stimulus makes you wonder about.

Our questions

Question	Who asked	Votes

WORKSHEET 2

Disagreeing well

Plan.

Disagreeing well

Sentence starter	My example
I see it differently because...	
I understand why you think...	
Can you explain why...?	
Could we both agree that...?	

WORKSHEET 3

Last words

Before and after.

Should we tolerate everything? Before the enquiry I thought... Now I think... because...

FOR THE TEACHER

Assessment checklist

Use during the session. One sheet covers up to eight students; copy as needed.

Student	Asks a philosophical question	Gives reasons and examples	Listens and builds on others

Suggested codes: W = working towards · E = expected · G = greater depth

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

Can We Disagree Respectfully? is a sample activity from the EduTrend Contents P4C Diversity and Difference programme (middle school, level: intermediate). Every activity in the programme follows the same format: a practical challenge, a clear session plan, facilitator notes and ready-to-print worksheets, so that teachers, club leaders and parents can run it without extra preparation.

Full 15-, 20- and 32-week programmes are available from EduStore at edutrend.org.

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