



In this thinking routine, participants individually and collectively surface their prior knowledge, assumptions, and conclusions about an essential question. Hearing 4 distinct positions on the same question or statement exposes participants to multiple, divergent viewpoints, rapidly increasing the breadth of knowledge available to each person. Inviting participants to shift corners in response to others' reasoning encourages the open-mindedness, curiosity, and humility characteristic of an inquiry disposition.

SET UP

1. Generate a series of provocative statements related to the topic/issue at hand.
2. Place signs in the corners of the room for: strongly disagree, disagree, agree, strongly agree.

STEPS

1. Explain the process to participants:
 - You will hear or see a statement. Decide which of the four corners is the best fit for how you think and feel about the statement.
 - Go to this corner and form a "First Word, Last Word" circle with peers. (if there more than 4 people, form 2 or more small circles in your corner).
 - *First Word, Last Word: In small groups, one person starts, stating why they've chosen this position. Moving clockwise, the next person shares their own thinking. When it's the first person's turn again, they create a statement that incorporates the ideas peers have just shared.
 - The first speaker from each small group in each corner then shares thinking with the large group. Participants may shift corners if moved by others' reasoning.
 - Sharing concludes by identifying a question(s) that the large group's thinking raises. Teacher record this question(s) on an anchor chart for future reference.
2. Present Statement 1.
3. Facilitate process described above.
4. Repeat for next statements.
5. Conclude with individual reflection: "I used to think . . . ; Now I think" (MTV, 154)

*(GW, 46)