



Center for the Environment at Catawba College
Campaign for Clean Air
Clean Air in the Classroom

Pre/Post Assessment

What's Your Opinion?

Overview

With the new teaching standards in place, we realize how important pre-assessment is in the classroom. This activity is a fun way to assess what your students know beforehand, so you can see how their knowledge has grown by the end of the unit.

This activity provides a safe environment for students to share their opinions about controversial topics and consider the opinions of others.

Materials

- “What’s Your Opinion?” (page available on the website), copy for each student or group
- one sign each for the ten questions on the survey with the number at the top and room at the bottom
- writing utensils
- colored dot stickers, enough for each student or group to have 2 green dots and 1 red dot:
 - red (which means “disagree”)
 - green (which means “agree”)

Procedures

1. Pass out the stickers to each student or group. Groups are a good option if you want students to collaborate and have a large class. Keep group size to four or less if possible.
2. Hang up the signs for each question on the board and pass out the “What’s Your Opinion?” page.
3. Have the students individually (or as a group) decide if they agree or disagree with each the statement. Once they have completed the sheet, individually or as a small group, have them select three statements that they feel strongly about. Two of the statements they will agree with and one statement they will disagree with. Have them take the sticker that corresponds with their choices and write their name (or group name) on them.
4. Have the class come up together to place their stickers on the signs.

Note: During the time students are filling out their sheets you may ask if anyone needs clarification on the statements. (For example, why should we worry about what time of day we mow the lawn?)

5. Once all stickers are placed, you are ready to discuss. Request one student who voted that they agreed with the first statement to explain why they voted the way they did. This is not a debate; do not allow students to be combative about their opinions. A speaker should give his/her opinion with no direct rebuttle. Then choose a person who voted they disagreed with the statement to explain why they voted the way they did.

Note: You may choose to go through each statement, or to save time pick out ones that were the most popular or controversial.

6. Now, give the students an opportunity to change their votes after each set of speakers gives their opinions. Be a neutral facilitator, emphasizing that there is no one right answer.

7. Have the class re-tally the votes. (if applicable)

8. Ask the students to raise their hands if they heard opinions based on facts.

9. Ask the students to raise their hands if they heard opinions based on emotions.

10. Ask the students to raise their hands if they chose to move their votes after hearing the opinions of their classmates.

11. Discuss with students why/how people change their opinions and why/how they might not change their opinions.

Assessment

12.) Have the students write about whether their opinion changed based on what another student had to say and why.