

The Opinion Game

The world is full of diverse thoughts and opinions. People have grown accustomed to recognizing what they have in common with others, but many still struggle to accept thoughts and opinions different from their own. The opinion game offers a fun, light-hearted activity to get kids learning and sharing their opinions openly about any variety of topics, while also listening to those of others. They are then taken out randomly according to a chance drawing, highlighting the importance of growing and sharing their opinion rather than figuring out who has the “right” opinion. Use this activity as an icebreaker for new groups, as a bonding activity for existing groups, or as an activity to further understanding about diversity of thought.

Social Emotional Learning Competency:

- Self-Awareness and Self-Management

Purpose:

- Learn about other group members.
- Learn to accept new ideas and opinions different from one’s own.

Materials:

- Medium sized bowl
- 3 or 4 sheets of 8.5x11 paper
- Tape
- Scissors
- Pen/pencil
- Small slips of paper (cut or torn)

Success Indicators

- Participants express how they feel and think about common topics.
- Participants are willing to show and share their opinions through their actions.

Recommended Group Size:

- 5-15 (Depending on time constraints and room size)

Est. Time: 10-30 minutes

Recommended Age:

6-Adult
For more information and activity resources visit <https://ohio4-h.org>

Activity Description

Set-up

- Begin by designating between 3 and 5 options for participants to use to indicate their opinions such as, “Not for me,” “Like it,” and “Love it.” Write these options on large pieces of paper and hang them in different wall areas around the room. They should be easily seen and accessible. Then write the same words on small slips, fold them, and place them in a bowl for later.
- Find or create a list of topics (e.g., best breakfast food or coolest pet) to share with the group during the game. You want at least 20 to 30 so that you can play a few rounds.

Activity

1. Begin by sharing that this is an activity to learn about opinions – what people like and do not like. This is not a time to debate about what is factually true, but to discuss why people have the opinion they have. No opinion is correct!
2. Name a topic (e.g., sports) and prompt all participants to move to the paper options that shows how they feel about that topic.
3. When all have made a choice, draw randomly from the bowl of the “Not for me,” “Like it,” and “Love it” options. If you draw “Not for me,” the people at that paper sit down and remain seated until the next round.
4. Introduce a new topic after each draw from the bowl.
5. Those still standing continue steps 2 and 3 with new topics until one person is left standing.
6. The leader can decide how much attention to bring to the shared opinions in the group, as a way to encourage peers learning about peers.

*A debrief should be added and tailored to the age of the group, to discuss the simplicity, difficulty, or even the importance of sharing opinions based on the topic and our relationship to it. This discussion will assure the purpose of the activity is met. It can also be an opportunity to discuss the benefits of diversity of thought – we need many ways to think so that we can support all groups.

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