

## **Lesson-6: Where do you stand?**

### **How to prepare:**

Provide access to print and/or digital editions of newspapers and ask students to collect opinions about a controversy. They should look for reasons given for holding any opinion.

### **What to do:**

After reading and discussing the factual information gathered on a controversy, students should look closely at the varying viewpoints. Have them list all of the opinion statements that they find in quotes, editorials, cartoons, columns and letters to the editor. Take the list and give each opinion to a student. Have students line up with the students holding the most extreme views on each end. Others should line up according to their positions between the extremes.

Present or have students present each statement related to the controversy. Have the student support and/or defend with facts the position he or she has been given. After this student finishes, others with similar or opposing views should contribute on request. If helpful, offer an open-ended sentence, such as the one below:

This is where I stand because...

If concerned that students learn to listen to their classmates, have them write down but not sign paragraphs that summarize what they've heard or summarize orally what others have said.

After considering news and information and discussing opinions expressed by various sources, have students write their own opinion(s), using editorials, letters to the editor, columns and editorial columns as models.