

Moving Debate

Author: Frédéric Renier, Supagro Florac

License for this worksheet: Creative Commons BY-SA

Introduction: the moving debate is an animation tool which makes it easier to speak in front of a group.



Official website: <http://www.scoplepave.org/debats-mouvants>

Presentation: the moving debate (also called positioning game) is a form of dynamic debate which fosters active participation.

- A facilitator tells a deliberately controversial story. At some specific stages of the story, the participants are invited to physically position themselves in the room, according to whether or not they agree with the statement.
- No one is allowed to stay in the middle (everyone must choose a side). Since you have to physically move, you are obligated to choose a side and its arguments.
- Once everyone has chosen a side, the facilitator asks a volunteer to present her position.
- To start the debate, the facilitator can ask if someone has a strong opinion on why they chose this side rather than the other.
- When a side has given its arguments, the other side gives theirs, and so on. If a point of argument is considered valid by someone from the other side, she can switch sides.
- The facilitator chooses when to close the debate and the story continues until the next controversial claim, then the debate starts again.

Requirement:

- At least 10 participants
- A controversial story in which the participants can picture themselves
- A room with enough space
- Signs to indicate which side is which (I Agree / I don't Agree)
- Introduce the rules of the game (participants are not obligated to speak, but they must choose a side)
- Duration : 1 hour and 30 minutes

Potential applications :

- To quickly break the ice in a group. Having to choose a side quickly becomes a game and encourages active participation.
- To encourage the participation of most clients, the facilitator encourages those who did not speak to participate in the debate
- To clarify each participant's position and to highlight the diversity of opinions