

What do you think?

Aim: To debate issues surrounding the food crisis.

Top Tip: If you haven't used the walking debate before, explain to the students how it will work, before you invite them to stand.

Instructions: Label the room with AGREE and DISAGREE on opposite walls. Invite the students to gather in the middle of the room. Read out a statement without discussing it further and ask students to move to the position they are happy with, which can range from strongly agree to strongly disagree. Standing in the middle, for example, suggests that the student does not fully agree or disagree or is undecided. Without talking to one another, ask a few students to express their opinion on the statement. Offer students the chance to adjust their position after some opinions have been given and ask them why they moved. Perhaps for the 2nd or 3rd statement, ask other students why they think their classmate is standing where he/she is.

It is important that students do not talk unless asked, so that opinions are listened to and respected.

You could also invite the students to propose new statements for discussion.

Statements:

People are hungry because they live in hot countries where it doesn't rain.

People are hungry because they live in countries with corrupt governments.

Tropical countries need to grow more food for world consumption.

More bio fuels need to be grown for our energy consumption, so that we aren't so dependent on oil.

We need to grow our own food, instead of relying on the world market to satisfy our taste buds.