

Opinion Line

#movement #classroom-management #discussion #feedback #getting-to-know-each-other
#exchanging-opinions #organizing-knowledge

An opinion line makes different positions visible, allowing for further conversation and discussion.

Arrangement: plenum

Phase: elaboration

Description:

It takes some sort of 'line' of approximately 6-10 meters, either in the classroom or outside, and a question or task. Such a line could be drawn with chalk, or tape could be used. Once we have a line, students will take a stand along the line according to their individual opinion. There are different options depending on the question or task at hand. For example, students may stand on either end of the line if they fully agree or disagree with a given statement. A neutral position would be in the middle of the line. The teacher could then ask for reasons underlying the students' decisions. This could then lead to a discussion (unless the entire class finds themselves in the same position), which is either led by the teacher or by the students themselves. Making standpoints visible can improve the discussion because the students can see where everybody stands.

Hints:

It should be taken into account that any 'results' are to be taken with a pinch of salt since students will naturally look at what their peers do and may position themselves accordingly (e.g. to avoid being 'the odd one out').

Sufficient space is required, which becomes more complicated when this method is used within larger groups.

Material:

A template can be found on our website in the material corner.

Variation:

The teacher can decide when and how to respond to students' comments.

Results may also be projected on the board to maintain results even when students have sat down again.

Sources (German):

Boelmann, Jan (2015): Umgang mit dem interaktiven Whiteboard. Das Einsteigerbuch, Augsburg.

Lange, Christina (2017): Was sagt mir Dietrich Bonhoeffer? Zugänge für den RU in Sek I und II, Göttingen.

Kress, Karin (2013): Binnendifferenzierung in der Sekundarstufe – Das Praxisbuch. Profi-Tipps und Materialien aus der Lehrerfortbildung, Donauwörth.