

Who Is Responsible?

Directions for Respectful Discussion with Talking Stick

Everyone in the group silently reads the questions and thinks about possible responses for 5 – 10 minutes. Whoever is holding the talking stick has permission to talk and the others must listen until they hold the stick.

The first person holding the stick reads aloud Question #1 and responds with an opinion, withholding emotion and sticking to facts. Then, the next teammate takes the stick and politely responds to the previous speaker by summarizing the previous comments and agreeing or politely disagreeing with facts. Others are offered the talking stick for a chance to respond.

The second person then responds to Question #2. This continues until everyone has a chance to read and respond to a question.

1. Who is responsible for the continued destruction of the rainforest? Does one person or organization get all the blame?
2. How do rainforests impact the health of the global environment?
3. Why do organizations and people cut down trees or burn forests?
4. Are the local governments acting in the best interest of the global environment, the rainforest people and animals, or their own financial gain?
5. What control or influence do you have as a citizen to make a change? What are things citizens can do?
6. What control or influence do nonprofit organizations have to make a change? How can you help them?

