

Step to the Line

Directions: Put an approximately 15-foot piece of tape on the floor. Ask participants to stand on either side of the tape line so that they can see everyone. Tell them they will hear statements that describe a variety of traits. Ask that as each statement is read, those who identify with that statement should step to the line. Encourage them to reflect quietly on how they feel and who else is standing. The entire activity should be done in total silence until the debriefing segment.

After each statement, thank participants and ask them to step away again. Then read another statement.

"Step to the line if you ..."

1. identify as male.
2. identify as female.
3. were born in the U.S.
4. were born in another country.
5. live with both parents.
6. live with one parent.
7. live with someone who is not a parent.
8. have at least one sibling.
9. rode to school on a bus.
10. walked to school.
11. came to school without a meal today.
12. speak a language other than English.
13. have a family member or a friend who has a disability that you can or cannot see.
14. have felt alone, unwelcome or afraid at some time in your life.
15. have heard gunshots in your neighborhood.
16. have felt pressure to do something you didn't want to do.
17. stood by and watched while someone was emotionally or physically hurt and said or did nothing because you were too afraid.
18. Feel that one person can make a difference.
19. know someone who tried to take their own life.

Debrief:

- What was most surprising as you watched who stood up with you?
- What was not surprising?
- We often think about diversity as it relates to race, religion, and age. What are other ways we are different?
- How does diversity impact our classroom community?