

Access English Centre
Immigrant Centre Manitoba
Conversation Circle
Group Activity: Surveys on Current Issues
Advanced Level

Facilitator note:

This activity is to assist learners to practice their language skills by offering their own opinions and points of view on current issues. Learners are given the freedom to express themselves by practicing commonly used expressions in a group discussion.

Step one: Facilitator writes the following commonly used expressions on the board or flip chart. (See the attached)

Step two: Facilitator models his/her ideas on one of the issues. (See the attached)

Step three: Place 3-4 clients into one group so that they can ask each other's opinions on the current issues.

Step four: Facilitator guides the group sharing on the opinions of the issues by inviting learners to share their opinions.

Expressions to offer personal opinions:

1. Pro:
 - a. I support this ...
 - b. I think it is right to ...
 - c. I believe it is good to ...
 - d. In my opinion, it is ...
2. Con:

- a. I don't think it is ...
- b. I don't believe it is ...
- c. I don't support ...

3. Uncertain:

- a. I don't know much about ...
- b. I am not familiar with ...
- c. This topic is new to me, so I don't know what to say.

Examples:

Pro:

In my opinion, I think it is alright to use animals for scientific research. I believe it is more proper to use animals than to use human beings. We consume animal meat as part of our diet in our life. We raise them and feed them for business purposes. So, I don't see anything wrong here. In my country, there is no such thing as Animal Rights.

What is your opinion on the following issues?

Animal Rights

- 1. How do you feel about using animals for research?
- 2. In your home country, do you care about animal rights?

Death Penalty

- 1. What's your opinion on the death penalty?
- 2. In your country, do you have the death penalty?

Drinking and Driving Punishment

1. How do you feel about Drinking and Driving punishment?
2. Can you drink and drive in your home country?

Smoking in Public Areas

1. What's your opinion on smoking in public area?
2. Do you think the government should ban smoking?

Teenage Crime

1. How do you feel about teenage criminals?
2. Do you think their parents should be responsible for any damage that they cause?

Tough Anti-Drug Laws

1. What's your opinion on drugs?
2. Do you think that people should go to jail for taking and selling drugs?