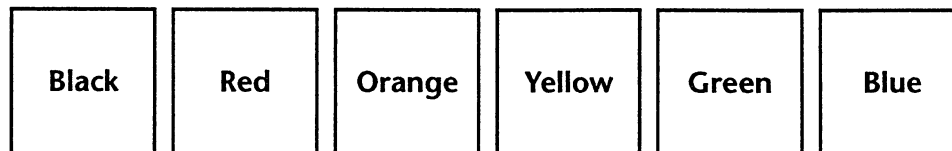


Where Do I Stand?

This learning strategy works with almost any topic. You will need six large pieces of colored poster board. The colors of the poster board and their positions on the floor should look like this:



Agree

Disagree

Think of a number of hypothetical situations that involve making value choices. For example:

- A baby is born with a serious birth defect that would make him or her unable to live without constant care in an institution. Should the child be allowed to die?
- A woman is a prisoner in a concentration camp. Her husband and children are waiting for her in a nearby neutral country. The only possible way she can be freed from this prison is to become pregnant because pregnant women are automatically released. Should she have sex with another man so that she can become pregnant?

Read aloud a situation. Tell the young people to decide what they think and to stand on one of the colored squares indicating their decision. Explain that the blue square at one end represents total disagreement and the black square at the other represents total agreement. The other colors represent a continuum between these two extremes. Point out that none of the squares stand for a neutral position. After everyone has chosen a place to stand, ask each person to share why she or he feels this way. During the discussion, tell the young people that they may move to a different square. If everyone agrees, the entire group will be standing on one of the squares. This is all right, but it is not your goal. The goal is first of all to allow the young people the opportunity to think through some of their values and to see them in relation to the values of others.

Read aloud another situation and proceed as before.