

Where do you stand?

This exercise is designed to have students declare, at least to themselves, where they stand – how much they agree or disagree with a variety of statements. Depending on the logistics, it may also provide a way to share their position more widely.

Possible statements – a mix to fit the differing opinions that might be held

- People should always use the officially accepted way to enter another country, even if they have to wait a long time
- If you and / or your family members are in danger in your own country, then it is fine for you to seek asylum in another country and to get there, whatever way you can
- There are always officially accepted ways to apply to enter Australia
- The people who have come to Australia without a visa are just looking for a better life: they want to be more comfortable financially
- Australia is very generous to refugees
- I know a lot about people seeking asylum
- I have met or I know a refugee
- It is appropriate to keep people in detention
- People have to be in detention for the safety of the rest of us
- Too many migrants, especially refugees, make Australia unsafe

The logistics

A When the group is small enough and there is floor space available

Create an imaginary line across the available space with one end being strongly agree and the other strongly disagree. Ask students to stand wherever is appropriate in response to some of the statements above. This is best done quietly, with time for students to notice where they are in relation to the group and where the group is.

Once they have responded to a few of the statements, ask them to talk with one or two others about how the experience felt OR what it made them think about. That could be followed by some comments to the whole group.

B When the group is large and/or there is little floor space

Provide the students with a sheet (paper or digital) with several lines marked Strongly agree to Strongly disagree. Ask students to mark wherever is appropriate in response to some of the statements above.

Once they have responded to a few of the statements, ask them to talk with one or two others about what their responses were and how the experience felt OR what it made them think about. That could be followed by some comments to the whole group.