



Viewing points

Freedom writers

After watching the film discuss in small groups:

- What are people's thoughts and feelings about the film?
- How important is change?
- Why is change important to justice, mercy and humility?

In the film the students participate in an activity called a line game. Play a version of this now with your group.

Put a line (real or imaginary) down the middle of the room, and then split the group in half on either side of the line.

Read out an issue / statement (see below) and, in silence, the participants will have to decide to what extent their choices and decisions can change/have an impact on that issue. Not all the statements have to be read out; it's up to you. It would be good if you can leave a few seconds between each one for people to have a think.

If they feel that the issue is entirely within their control, they step right up to the line; if they feel they have no control over the matter, they stay well away from the line; and if it's somewhere in between, they stand somewhere in between.

- The food we eat
- The clothes we wear
- What we say to other people
- How others behave towards us
- How a group of our friends behave towards another group of people who look/behave differently
- How much energy we use in our homes or schools
- The global use of energy and global warming
- Violence between our friends
- Violence in society and society's attitude to violence
- The attitude of our government towards war and peace
- (Anything else...)

Once the statements have all been read, come back together as a group and discuss any particularly interesting responses, or issues that people were less sure of or disagreed on.

Next divide the group in two and ask one group to form the inner circle. Then ask the other group to form an outer circle around them so that everyone has a partner from the other circle. Explain that you will ask three questions and for each one you will

give 1 minute for quiet thinking, 1 minute for the outer ring person to speak, then 1 minute for the inner ring partner to speak (when the person not talking should be actively listening). Explain that you will raise your hand to mark the end of each minute. After each the reflection and sharing, the outer ring moves round to the next partner for another question.

First ask everyone to think of a contribution they have made to seeking justice. Then ask the following three questions:

- What did I do to support the change?
- Why did I get engaged/what was touched in me?
- How did/do I feel about my contribution?