

It is advisable to be flexible about the exact order of events, depending on the strengths and weaknesses of the group and on the liveliness of the discussion. For example:

- You may want to add one or two more intervals for the groups to prepare arguments, so that different speakers have the opportunity to present their points of view.
- If you have performed this activity before with the group – or even if you have not – you can keep an element of surprise by varying the way that the first speakers are chosen – for example, you could select the two people third from each end.
- You may decide, in one of the intervals for preparing arguments, to ask the “supporters” of each speaker to work with the opposing speaker – in other words, to prepare arguments against the position that they themselves hold. This can be a good way of getting people to consider the opposite point of view, and can provide an interesting variation if people do not appear to be changing sides at all.

You may want to allow the speakers to have a postcard-sized piece of paper with brief notes on to remind them of the different arguments, and to be able to refer to while speaking.

You may want to raise the issue of whether “pluralism” or freedom of expression should be subject to any limits in a tolerant society: should fascist or nationalist demonstrations be permitted, for example?



### Suggestions for follow-up

If you are interested in following up the idea of how opinions are formed or changed, especially by the media you may want to look at the activity, “Front page”, on page 181.

If you would like to think further about the relationship between the opinions people hold and the images and stereotypes they have of the world, then you may like to do the activity, “Cultionary” in the Education Pack All Different – All Equal.



### Ideas for action

If you choose the statement on voting, you may want to follow up the activity with a survey of voting habits in your local community; see the activity, “To vote, or not to vote”, on page 306.



### Further information

Suffrage day is celebrated on 19 September it is the day in 1893 that New Zealand granted women the right to vote, the first country in the world to implement universal suffrage.

### Handouts

#### Statements for discussion

- We have a moral obligation to use our vote in elections.
- We should obey all laws, even unfair ones.
- The only people who have any power in a democracy are the politicians.
- “People get the leaders they deserve”.
- It is the responsibility of citizens to control the day-to-day activity of the government.
- Freedom of expression means you can say that you want.
- Neo-fascist parties should be banned.
- Extremists should be banned from speaking in public.
- Voting should be an obligation.
- It’s not worth voting for representatives to sit on the school council, because the council only discusses and makes recommendations; it can’t make binding decisions.