

HANDOUT

The scenario

You are taking the train home from school or work. It is not very crowded and there are some seats free, but they are all next to other passengers. Where should you sit? Who would be your first three choices of passengers to sit next to and which three would you definitely wish to avoid?

1. A gay couple (men) with a new-born baby in a pram
2. A teenage mother with an unruly 2-year-old
3. An obese, white stockbroker who is talking loudly on his phone
4. A catholic nun using her rosary
5. An Asian nurse who has just come off duty
6. A smiling born-again Christian on a mission
7. A black woman and her white boyfriend
8. A police officer
9. A gay Roma activist
10. Two dark-skinned women in long skirts, supposedly selling lavender
11. A homeless woman who badly clean clothes
12. A traveller (man) with his dog.
13. A young man with bruises and torn clothes returning from a political rally
14. A young rapper listening to loud music and really "feeling the beat"
15. A blind accordion player with his instrument in a large case
16. A girl wearing a head scarf and seems distressed
17. A young woman wearing a T-shirt with "Vegan Feminism Will Win!" in large letters
18. A skinhead; the word "HATE" tattooed on his fingers
19. Two "mates" going to a football match. Each has a can of beer in his hand.
20. A farmer who speaks in a strong dialect and has a basket full of smelly cheese

Instructions

1. **Individually** select your three first choices of the people you would prefer to sit next to on the train, and the three you would prefer to avoid. You have 15 minutes to do this.
2. **In groups**, share your choices of the three most preferred and the three least preferred travelling companions, and discuss the reasons which led to your decisions.
Then try to come to a consensus on a common list of the three most favoured and the three least favoured companions. You have 40 minutes for this part of the activity.
3. **In plenary**, each group presents its conclusions followed by a debriefing and evaluation of the activity.