

Reasoning

Key message/Summary

The objective of this exercise is to find a lot of reasons (arguments) for or against something spontaneously. We train to take a clear position by saying a 'pro' or a 'contra' argument. This shows how different the fields ("topoi") can be, where reasons for something can be found.

Module

Prevention

Group sizesmallmediumlarge

Group age • 16 - 19 • 20 - 24 • 15 min • 30 min

Purpose

- Learn how to argument
- Recognize both "sides of the coin"
- To learn how to think from the other perspectives
- To understand the point of view of others
- Overcoming limiting beliefs

Description

The participants stand in a circle. The facilitator asks the question and gives a ball/stone to the person to her right. She has to find a pro – reason then she passes the ball to the girl to her right and she has to find a contra-reason. This continues in this way. The goal is that the ball goes around very fast.

Pro and contras for different issues:

- Opinion about daily issues: "Chocolate-Ice-Cream is good/bad, because..."
- Opinion about a known person: "I like/dislike xxx (for example. the pope, Madonna, a politician of your country, ...), because s/he ..."
- Opinion about the actual situation: "We should/not/do this exercise for the next 20 minutes, because ..."
- Opinion about this group: "We should/not/do the next workshop session on a sailing boat, because ..."
- Opinion about a concern of society: "In our country young women should/ not/have the same duty to go to the military, as young men do, because..."

Variations (advanced level):

To articulate the premise you make, the person used / To relate to the premise the person said before / To have two balls going around

Feedback

- Did you find it easy to find a "Pro" and "Contra"-Reason?

- How do the questions relating to the issues leading to the formulation of our reasons differ?

- What are issues and what are situations when is it not productive to think in "pro" and "contra" arguments?

Materials needed

Ball / Stone

Methodology

Group dynamic exercise

Advice for Trainer

The "We should /not/ do"- issues are the ones, which have the potential to be discussed in the debate. Make the group aware of this in the feedback-round to prepare the following.

Source / Literature

Women without borders. (2006). Young Women Fit for Politcs. Retreived from www.women.without.borders.org



CC - Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/

Reasoning. Retrieved %s, from %sMonday September 1, 2025 from https://toolbox.ycare.eu/courses/YCARE165/

https://www.ycare.eu





The European Commission support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents which reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein