

Philosophical Chairs

A Quick Reference for Participants

Prepare - Examine the issue, idea, opinion, or proposal, using references provided. Prepare arguments for and/or against the issue, idea, opinion, or proposal.

Accept - the **Rules of Engagement**:

- ▲ **Read** the Opening Statement carefully; be sure you understand it
- ▲ **Listen** to the person who is speaking
- ▲ **Understand** the person's point of view
- ▲ **Contribute** your own thinking, offering your reasons as succinctly as possible
- ▲ **Respond** to statements only
- ▲ **Change** your mind about the statement as new information or reasoning is presented
- ▲ **Move** to the opposite side or to the Neutral chairs as your thinking grows and changes
- ▲ **Support** the Mediator in maintaining order and helping the discussion to progress
- ▲ **Reflect** on the experience via the closing activity or assignment

Arrange - chairs in rows to facilitate choosing sides. Add chairs in the middle for times when participants are temporarily undecided or choose to be temporarily neutral.

Listen - to the Opening Statement and determine your opening stand.

Engage - in the discussion.

Apply - the Rules of Engagement

Complete - a reflection upon the conclusion of the Philosophical Chairs