



On the Fence Activity

Directions:

- 1) Have students write down one statement they believe is true and one statement they think is false about climate change or any other controversial topic you choose.
- 2) Have students line up shoulder to shoulder and face you. Read each of the statements they wrote aloud (one at a time). Instruct the students to step forward if they agree with the statement and step back if they disagree with the statement. No one can stay on the fence they **MUST** make a decision.
- 3) At the end of the activity the students will visually see how their opinions vary. This is a great activity to start the study of any topic.

Note to Teachers: For this activity you may produce your own statements that have a bit of controversy, use the statements below, or you may have your students come up with their own statements.

Suggested controversial statements that you may read aloud for this activity:

- 1) Global warming will cause mass extinctions
- 2) Lobster meals will be a thing of the past due to Global warming
- 3) Hurricane frequency is increasing due to Global warming
- 4) Hurricanes are stronger due to Global warming
- 5) Global warming will lead to climate change
- 6) Current global warming can be attributed to natural cycles in the earth system.
- 7) Human induced activities are the primary driving force of global warming
- 8) Greenhouse gases are inherently bad for the environment
- 9) The earth has passed the tipping point where we cannot stop global warming
- 10) Greenhouse gases have exponentially increased during the last 1000 years
- 11) We should expect more rainfall as an outcome of global warming
- 12) Increasing cloud cover will cool the earth
- 13) Don't go where the huskies – dirty snow makes the globe warmer
- 14) Human actions are the primary cause of global warming
- 15) Climate change and global warming is primarily due to a dimming sun
- 16) Ocean cycles and currents drive the climate and global warming
- 17) Increasing greenhouse gases mean more NLC's
- 18) More clouds means less rain.
- 19) Glaciers retreat is a key indicator of global warming
- 20) The glacier record indicates that we should be cooling.
- 21) The glacier record indicates that climate has been steady in the geologic past

* Handout courtesy of the AIM Outreach Program <http://aim.hamptonu.edu>