



# Social Awareness

## ABOUT MORNINGSIDE CENTER

Morningside Center for Teaching Social Responsibility's evidence-validated programs engage young people in learning essential social and emotional skills and help educators build productive and respectful schools. The 4Rs Program combines superior children's books with engaging SEL activities that explore community, feelings, relationships, conflict, and problem-solving, adding depth to literacy instruction.

# Think Differently

By: The 4Rs



## Think Differently (Opinion Continuum)

### Note to the teacher:

*Think Differently* is an excerpt from The 4Rs™ [Reading, Writing, Respect & Resolution] Teaching Guide for Grade 4, Unit 1: Building Community, p. 11.

The book selection for this unit is *Alejandro's Gift* by Richard E. Albert.

**Time:** 25 minutes

**Materials:** signs described below (optional)

Alejandro was respectful of the animals' need for privacy. In our classroom, we want to respect each other's needs and opinions.

Ask, what is an opinion? Elicit or explain that it's a strong belief that people have, sometimes based on fact and sometimes not.

Designate one corner of the room for "strongly agree," the opposite corner for "strongly disagree," and the middle for "not sure." *Make signs if necessary.*

Tell the children you'll say a statement, and they will move to the appropriate place according to whether they agree with the statement, disagree, or aren't sure. Try to think of statements on which children will have a range of opinions.

Once the children have taken their places, ask for volunteers from each location to explain their opinion. Encourage some dialogue among children with differing opinions.

If children change their minds in the course of the discussion, they can change places.



## Think Differently (Opinion Continuum)

You are welcome to add your own statements to those suggested below:

- Children shouldn't be required to do homework.
- Children shouldn't be required to attend school.
- Children should be limited to one hour of TV a day.
- Children should wear uniforms in school.
- Children should be allowed to chew gum and eat candy in class.

Strongly Agree

Don't know

Strongly  
Disagree

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