

Line up, Fold up



Line up, fold up is a routine that can help students share their understanding and ideas in an authentic way while helping the teacher to assess student understanding and self-reflection.

Steps for the Strategy

1. Give students a prompt (i.e. How well do you understand simplifying expressions? Or, Napoleon was the greatest leader of his time. Agree or disagree).
2. Ask them to line up along a continuum based on what they think about that prompt.

From here you can do any of the following:

- Ask students from different areas on the continuum to share their thinking, providing evidence or explanation for why they chose to stand where they did.
- Fold the line so that students from each end of the spectrum are talking with each other about the prompt.
- Cut the line in half and shift the middle of the line to one end or the other so that students are talking with other students who are less than half of the spectrum different in their thinking.
- Have students talk with the people who are either side of them to determine if they are really in the right place on the continuum.
- Have students rearrange themselves after talking with their peers (in any of the above formats) to represent how their thinking has changed or what they now know. Ask students to share why they moved.

Considerations:

Ensure that students who need them have scaffolds for participating in these conversations, either for the content or the language that will be necessary. Scaffolds might be co-created posters in the room, graphic organizers created ahead of time, discussion cards, etc.