

Thinking Deeper



Social Issues, Problems, and Solutions

Critical Thinking Discussion Activities

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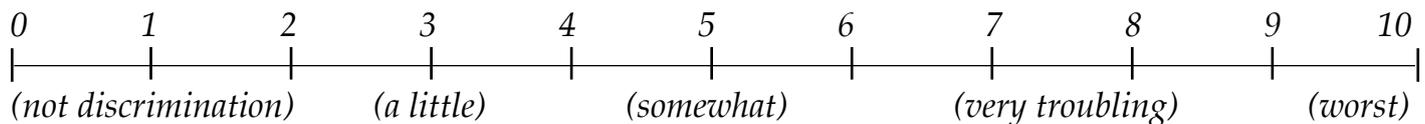
3. Thinking Deeper about Discrimination

People might be treated unfairly, and discriminated against, for many reasons. In your society, to what extent do minorities get discriminated against? What about women? The elderly? Discuss the picture below with your partners, then rate each potential reason for discrimination.



The Scale

How troubling is each situation below? Rate them.



1. Sex: a hardworking woman is not promoted while male colleagues are __
2. Sex: An interviewer asks a woman if she plans to have children __
3. Age: a productive worker is forced to retire at 65 __
4. Race: a Japanese kid living abroad is told to “go back to your home country” __
5. Race: a foreigner cannot rent an apartment because he is not Japanese __
6. Profiling: Police in Arizona stop people who look Hispanic and check them for drugs __
7. Poverty: more poor people go to prison than rich, even though the crime rate is the same __
8. Occupational: people avoid speaking with a janitor or butcher at a party __
9. Appearance: a better qualified but less attractive person doesn’t get a job __
10. Religion: a Muslim is refused service at a restaurant __
11. Mental challenges: a capable person is not hired because s/he has Down Syndrome __
12. Physical challenges: a person in a wheelchair cannot enter a building with no ramp __
13. Wage: an immigrant is offered less money than a citizen doing the same factory job __
14. Sexuality: a gay man can’t marry his lover __
15. Identity: a biological man who identifies as a woman is not allowed to use the women’s rest room (toilet) __

When finished, share your ratings and reasons and discuss them with your partners.

11. Thinking Deeper about Weapons

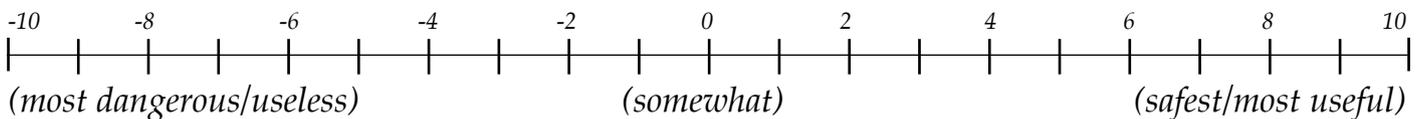
Most weapons are designed to kill. Still, some people think weapons are necessary to defend ourselves from criminals and terrorists. Others think weapons should be strictly controlled. Discuss the photo, then rate the danger, usefulness, and the degree to which you would like each weapon banned.



Cluster bombs are small bombs dropped out of a shell.

The Scale

Rate how dangerous each weapon is and its usefulness. Then write whether it should be banned.



	danger rank	usefulness rank	ban it? (write "yes" or "no")
1. bow and arrow	_____	_____	_____
2. handgun	_____	_____	_____
3. nuclear bomb	_____	_____	_____
4. landmine	_____	_____	_____
5. pepper spray	_____	_____	_____
6. kitchen knife	_____	_____	_____
7. pocket knife	_____	_____	_____
8. rifle / shotgun for hunting	_____	_____	_____
9. cluster bombs	_____	_____	_____
10. automatic weapons*	_____	_____	_____

* "Automatic weapons" can continually shoot between 3 and 1,800 bullets a minute.

Share your answers with your partners. Discuss how useful and dangerous each weapon is, and why you do or don't want it banned.

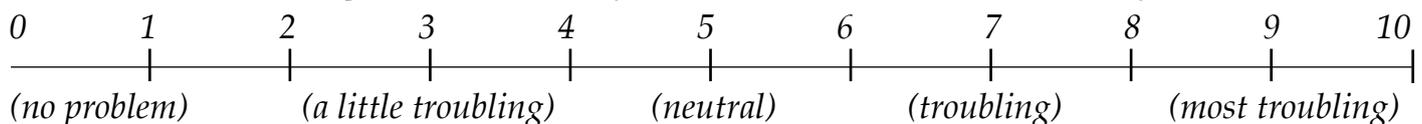
19. Thinking Deeper about Harassment

People's awareness of sexual harassment, and recognizing it as a problem in the workplace, began in the 1970s. Since then, other kinds of harassment have been identified. What actions can be called "harassment"? Discuss the picture, and then rate the situations described below.



The Scale

How troubling is each situation of harassment below? Rate on a scale of 0 to 10.



1. A male boss keeps greeting his young female secretary with, "Hi, Honey," even after she has asked him to stop. __
2. A boss keeps calling a Mexican worker "Mexico" instead of his actual name. __
3. A receptionist is told she can't get promoted, because the company needs a beautiful woman like her at the front desk. __
4. After Jane told her friends she didn't like to hear talk about sex in the break room, they stopped – but then they often whispered around her. __
5. A boss keeps asking a worker out on a date, telling her it could lead to a promotion. __
6. A female painter often gets asked questions like, "What color are your panties?" __
7. A boss who has a side business selling New Year's food specialties tells his workers they must buy two, for \$200 each. __
8. Keiko often rubs the shoulders, back, and neck of a male colleague in the office room that many teachers share. He likes being massaged. __
9. Bill gets yelled at by his boss for talking about sports during lunchtime. __
10. A male politician pats a female friend's behind as they stand for a photograph. __
11. When Ann walks down the street in a mini-skirt and tight blouse, men whistle at her. __
12. John gets a pay cut at his international university because he suggested to the university president that he replace the national flag with an Earth flag. __

Share your ratings and discuss your opinions with your partners.

