

# Four-Corners Debate

## Why?

- \* Four-Corners Debate is a non-threatening activity that allows students to discuss controversial topics.
- \* Four-Corners Debate encourages students to express their points of view, to reflect on and reconsider their reasoning, and to draw conclusions.
- \* Four-Corners Debate generates listening to and respecting another person's point of view.

## How?

- \* Make four signs: *Agree, Disagree, Strongly Agree, and Strongly Disagree*. Post one sign in each corner of the room.
- \* Write a statement on the board that will elicit a reaction from students, such as, "Fast food is a good thing."
- \* Students move to the corner with the sign that most closely matches and reflect their opinions, without any discussion or verbal response.
- \* Allow the students ample time, approximately five minutes, to discuss their reactions and opinions.
- \* A spokesperson from each group reports its opinions. Each group should be allowed equal time (1-3 minutes).
- \* Open the floor to debate and discussion.
- \* Allow students who have changed their opinions to change corners.
- \* Students are invited to explain any changes in opinion as a result of the debate.