



On the Fence Activity – Assessment flavor

Directions:

- 1) Write down some true statements regarding the topic area you are about to cover (pretest), or that you have just completed (post-test). Also include some statements stating some common misconceptions about these topics.
- 2) Have your students line up shoulder to shoulder. Read each of the statements 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) This activity allows you to visually see where your students are (pre-test) or how well they have absorbed the material (post-test).

Note to Teachers: Some sample statements are below. Adapt as needed for your topic and grade level.

Suggested statements that you may read aloud for this activity on the topic of Earth's climate and weather:

- 1) The greenhouse effect is essential to life on Earth.
- 2) Greenhouse gases are inherently bad for the environment.
- 3) Current global climate change can be attributed to natural cycles in the Earth system.
- 4) Climate change and global warming are primarily due to a dimming Sun.
- 5) Human activities are the primary driving force of global climate change.
- 6) Increasing cloud cover will cool the Earth.
- 7) Increasing cloud cover will warm the Earth.
- 8) The effect of clouds depends on their properties and height.
- 9) Global climate change means that the planet will get warmer everywhere.
- 10) Global climate change includes changes in rainfall patterns.
- 11) The polar regions are most rapidly and strongly affected by climate change.
- 12) The polar regions will always be frozen and icy.
- 13) Aerosols are caused by human activities.
- 14) There are natural and man-made sources of aerosols.
- 15) Aerosols can speed up the melting of snow and ice when dark dust and soot particles fall on these bright surfaces.
- 16) Ocean cycles and currents have a very large impact on our planet's weather and climate.
- 17) The ocean does not affect weather on land.
- 18) The ozone hole is allowing the Earth to heat up.
- 19) The ozone hole allows the Sun's ultraviolet radiation to reach the Earth surface.
- 20) Ozone near the Earth's surface is very bad for plants and animals (and people)