On the Fence Activity

Directions:
1) Have your students write down one statement they believe is true and one statement they think is false about climate change or any other controversial topic you choose.
2) Have your students line up shoulder to shoulder. Read each of the statements they wrote 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) At the end of the activity the students will visually see how their opinions vary. This is a great activity to start the study of any topic.

Note to Teachers: For this activity you may produce your own statements that have a bit of controversy, use the statements below, or you may have your students come up with their own statements.

Suggested controversial statements that you may read aloud for this activity:
1) Global warming will cause mass extinctions
2) Lobster meals will be a thing of the past due to Global warming
3) Hurricane frequency is increasing due to Global warming
4) Hurricanes are stronger due to Global warming
5) Global warming will lead to climate change
6) Current global warming can be attributed to natural cycles in the earth system.
7) Human induced activities are the primary driving force of global warming
8) Greenhouse gases are inherently bad for the environment
9) The earth has passed the tipping point where we cannot stop global warming
10) Greenhouse gases have exponentially increased during the last 1000 years
11) We should expect more rainfall as an outcome of global warming
12) Increasing cloud cover will cool the earth
13) Don’t go where the huskies – dirty snow makes the globe warmer
14) Human actions are the primary cause of global warming
15) Climate change and global warming is primarily due to a dimming sun
16) Ocean cycles and currents drive the climate and global warming
17) Increasing greenhouse gases mean more NLC’s
18) More clouds means less rain.

Handout courtesy of the AIM Outreach Program http://aim.hamptonu.edu