

ON THE LINE

- ✧ *Put seven or eight stools in a line across the front.*
- ✧ *Call up one small group; ask them to stand behind the stools.*
- ✧ *Read one of the statements below and explain the spread of responses.*
- ✧ *Have students move stools to indicate where they stand in response to the statement.*
- ✧ *Call on each individual to discuss one of the statements (use ideas given below each)*
- ✧ *Field questions and responses from the floor as appropriate.*

1. I am a responsible student. I try my best to listen, to study, to learn.

- role of parents in your attitude to studying;
- role of teacher
- role of friends
- studies vs other activities
- studies and personal goals
- compare to past, future
- would you like a school with no grades?

2. I think the rules in our school are:

Too easy Just right Too strict

- name some of the rules; reasons for them
- how rule breakers are punished, should be punished
- who makes the rules: school, parents, students
- who should make the rules
- who does/should enforce rules
- rules you would like to see changed
- appropriate process for changing a rule

3. When I see other kids being teased or bullied I speak up for them.

- how it feels to be the bullied person; the bully
- does it matter whether the person is being bullied is a friend, handicapped child, popular or not, shy
- difference between fun teasing and mean teasing
- gossip as a form of bullying
- what your parents taught you about bullying
- is fighting back ever appropriate
- when should you tell an adult

4. I prefer a classroom where the teacher maintains good discipline.
 - describe classroom with good discipline
 - describe classroom with poor discipline
 - tell how you feel in each
 - tell how you act in each
 - who is responsible for class discipline: principal, teacher, students
 - would you report an ineffective teacher: to principal, to parents

5. Vulgar language is acceptable in my friendship group.
 - why kids use vulgar language
 - what is acceptable, what isn't: sex words, religious words, put downs (gay, retard), "toilet" words
 - how you feel when you hear vulgar language from a teacher, someone else's parent, girl vs guy
 - how strict is your mom re vulgar language; your dad
 - how you feel about vulgar language in the media
 - your response when you hear vulgar language
 - what will you tolerate as a parent

6. It's important to me that "my space" be neat, clean, nice.
 - how neat is your bedroom right now, your locker
 - do you pick up your own mess, your friends
 - your response when a teacher asks you to clean up
 - your response if this place had been messy
 - your response if you see vandalism happening – by your friends, by someone else
 - your response when you see someone toss garbage

7. I think any party attended by an 8th grader should be chaperoned.
 - name some positive and negative party behaviors
 - do your parents call, should they
 - would you lie to go to a party
 - your response to a friend's inappropriate behavior
 - would you leave a party? why? how?
 - who gets invited to parties? would you care about the kid who never was?

8. My friends and I are willing to help make our school a caring community.

- how much influence do you feel your group has – positive or negative
- what definite things do you think have to change
- are you willing to work with teachers and staff
- what would you like your 8th grade year to be like
- how can the 8th graders help the younger classes