



THE INSTITUTE FOR HUMANE EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 260
SURRY, MAINE 04684
207.667.1025
info@HumaneEducation.org
www.HumaneEducation.org

HUMAN PICTURE

Grades: 3 and up

Time: 10-15 minutes

Materials: Two sets of five colored slips of paper (see below); markers; a small container, such as a basket or box

Relevant Subjects: Social Studies, Language Arts, and Theater

Preparation:

- Using one color of paper cut up five slips of paper. On each slip of paper write one adjective that reflects a negative feeling or that has a negative connotation attached to it, such as: Angry, Sad, Fearful, Apathetic, Frustrated, Hopeless, Judgmental, Self-Righteous, etc.
- Using the other color of paper cut up five slips of paper. On each slip of paper write one adjective that reflects a positive feeling or that has a positive connotation attached to it, such as: Loving, Joyful, Hopeful, Empowered, Peaceful, Understanding, Courageous, Thoughtful, etc.

Alternative: Depending on the number of people in the group – and their comfort level - you may want to increase the number of slips. Be sure that there are an equal number of “negative” and “positive” slips.

Note: If you have a really large number of people, limit the number of statues and have the rest of the participants just be observers for both pictures.

1. Tell the class that you need five volunteers to make a human picture together. Designate a small area of the room as the “picture” area.
2. Place the “negative” slips of paper in the small container and ask five volunteers, one at a time, to come up and pick a slip of paper out of the container, to move to the picture area, and to make his/her body into a frozen, silent statue that represents the word on the paper.

3. Once all five people have formed the picture, ask the other people in the room to take a moment to really look at the picture.
4. Place the other five slips of paper in the small container and ask five more volunteers, one at a time, to come up and pick out a slip of paper. Ask her/him to tap one of the “statues” on the shoulder. That person can go back to her/his seat, while the other person makes her/his body into a statue that represents the word on her/his piece of paper.
5. Once all five people have formed the picture, ask the other people in the room to take a moment to really look at the picture.
6. Thank the “statues” and ask them to return to their seats.
7. Ask the participants who observed the first picture to describe what they saw and how they felt.
8. Ask the participants who observed the second picture to describe what they saw and how they felt.
9. Ask all the participants which picture depicted the type of world they want to live in.
10. Ask all the participants: Which picture best demonstrates the emotions that they feel the majority of the time in relation to other people? In relation to how they feel about the world? In relation to their activism or advocacy?
11. Ask the participants to share any final thoughts or comments.

Activity by Kimberly Korona (M.Ed. Graduate)