Philosophical Chairs

Rules of Engagement

- 1. Be sure you understand the central statement or topic before the discussion begins. Decide which section you will sit in.
- 2. Listen carefully when others speak and seek to understand their arguments even if you don't agree.
- 3. Wait for the mediator to recognize you before you speak; only one person speaks at a time.
- 4. You must first summarize briefly the previous speaker's argument before you make your response.
- 5. If you have spoken for your side, you must wait until three other people on your side speak before you speak again.
- 6. Be sure that when you speak, you address the ideas, not the person stating them.
- 7. Keep an open mind and move to the other side or the undecided section if you feel that someone made a good argument or your opinion is swayed.
- 8. Support the mediator by maintaining order and helping the discussion to progress.

