Values Continuum

Ground Rules
1. I’m going to read a series of statements. You’ll notice that parts of the rooms are labeled Agree, Disagree, and Neutral. (Can use Strong Agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree, Strongly Disagree – or allow participants to naturally move along the continuum depending on how strongly they feel about something).
2. There are no right/wrong opinions.
3. Everyone has a right to his/her opinion.
4. We want this to be an activity where everyone can participate. Side conversations prevent some people from participating fully. If you have a question or comment, raise your hand and share it with the entire group.
5. Be able to justify your beliefs if questioned.
6. Be respectful – allow others to speak uninterrupted.

College Attendance
1. Higher education is an opportunity that should be provided to everyone.
2. Higher education is a privilege that should be reserved for those who can afford it.
3. Higher education is a privilege that should be reserved for the highest academic achievers.
4. Athletic scholarships are good for higher education and those who receive them.
5. Your college GPA is less important than being involved in lots of activities.
6. Instructors should not have attendance policies. If I can do well without going to class, that’s their problem.
7. Class attendance should be a requirement for passing any class.

Academic Integrity
1. Using last semester’s tests to study for an exam is okay.
2. Using last semester’s tests to study for an exam is only okay with the instructor’s permission.
3. Turning in the same assignment for more than one class is okay; after all, it’s your own work.
4. Looking at a classmate’s quiz or test is okay.
5. Comparing assignments for accuracy before turning them in is okay.

Personal Habits
1. It’s impossible to study with music or television in the background.
2. Studying with other people is the best way to learn.
3. I need to be free from all distractions in order to focus on school work.
4. Cleaning your room is a waste of time – I know where everything is; who cares what it looks like.
5. Clothes are what people see first, so it’s important to spend a lot of money and effort on them.

Communication
1. Text messaging is much better than talking on the phone to someone.
2. When I’m upset with a friend, I address it through Facebook, text message, Twitter or email.
3. If my roommate (a colleague) had a problem with me, I would want him/her to have a face-to-face conversation with me about the issue.
4. Crowds of people make me nervous, especially when I don’t know anyone.
5. I like to hug and touch people I know, even if we aren’t that good of friends, because it builds a connection and lets them know I care.

Peer Pressure
1. It is better to go along with the crowd than to be singled out as different.
2. I am pretty easygoing but I will stand up for myself when I feel strongly about something.
3. I am who I am and I don’t care what other people think of me.

Alcohol
1. The legal age to drink alcohol should be lowered to 18.
2. The legal age to drink alcohol is 21, so no one under the age of 21 should ever drink.
3. Anyone should be allowed to drink alcohol, regardless of age.
4. Alcohol should only be consumed in moderation.
5. Drinking alcohol is the best way to have fun.
6. People who drive under the influence of drugs or alcohol should be put in prison.
7. People who hurt someone else while driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol should be put in prison.

**Drugs**
1. Moderate marijuana use is okay.
2. Recreational use of hard drugs is okay, as long as you don’t get addicted.
3. Drug use is a minor problem because it doesn’t hurt anyone but the user.
4. Drug dealers who target children should receive harsher punishment than other drug dealers.
5. Drug use is unacceptable and those who use drugs should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

**Smoking**
1. Bars and restaurants should be able to determine whether they want to allow smoking.
2. I don’t care if others smoke, as long as they don’t do it around me.
3. Smoking is a personal decision and the government should stay out of it.
4. Smoking is harmful and addictive and should be illegal.
5. Medicare/Medicaid should not provide treatment for illnesses caused by smoking because it is a person’s own fault that they chose to smoke.

**Sex and Marriage**
1. Sex should be enjoyed only by married couples.
2. Sex in a loving, committed relationship is fine.
3. Sex between two consenting partners is fine.
4. Sex is a physical act and people make too big of a deal out of it.
5. AIDS is God’s way of getting rid of sinners.
6. The spread of AIDS is preventable, so people who contract it get what they deserve for being careless.
7. Marriage should be between a man and a woman.
8. Any two people who are in a committed relationship should be allowed the legal benefits and protections of marriage.
9. Same sex couples should be allowed a civil union, but not a marriage.
10. Marriage is a religious institution and the government should stay out of it.

**Abortion**
1. Abortion is a health care issue and should be a choice made between a woman and her doctor.
2. Abortion should be allowed only if the mother’s life is in danger.
3. Abortion should be allowed if the mother was a victim of rape or incest.
4. Abortion should not be allowed ever.

**Religion**
1. I believe in a higher being or beings (God or gods).
2. I believe in a higher being and I regularly practice a religion.
3. I believe in a higher being, but I am not a big fan of religion.
4. I don’t believe in God or any other all powerful being.
5. I believe in heaven and hell.
6. I believe that my religion is the only way to get to heaven.
7. I would date/marry a person of a different religion.
8. I would feel comfortable living with a Christian as a roommate.
9. I would feel comfortable if my roommate practiced Orthodox Judaism.
10. I would feel comfortable if my roommate were a practicing Pagan.
11. I would feel comfortable having a roommate who practiced Islam.

**Careers**
1. I would never quit my job and move for a spouse or partner.
2. I would expect my spouse or partner to support me and move if I got a new opportunity somewhere else.
3. Whoever makes the most money should determine where a couple lives.
4. The most qualified person should get a job, regardless of his/her age/race/gender.
5. Diversity in the workplace is important and employers should strive to hire lots of different types of people.

**Race**
1. I feel most comfortable around other people who look like me.
2. I enjoy being around all kinds of people from different backgrounds because it helps me learn and
grow as a person.
3. I have friends of all different races and religions, but when it comes to a romantic relationship it's
important to find someone from your same background.
4. I would date/marry a person of a different race.
5. Racism exists in the United States.
6. Racism is still a problem but is not as bad as it used to be.
7. Racism is no longer an issue and people should stop talking about race so we can move on.

Immigration
1. People who move to the United States from other countries should learn to speak English.
2. I appreciate that some places provide information in multiple languages; it shows that all people
are welcomed and appreciated.
3. If I could not understand my instructor because he/she spoke with an accent, I would drop the
class or transfer to another section.
4. If I could not understand my instructor because he/she spoke with an accent, I would make it a
priority to sit in front, listen carefully, and ask questions if something doesn’t make sense.
5. People who come to the United States illegally should be immediately deported, regardless of
their situation.
6. The United States should make the process of legally immigrating easier.

Gender
1. I would vote for a female Presidential candidate if she was the best candidate.
2. I would vote for a female Presidential candidate because I would like to see a woman in office.
3. I would not vote for a female Presidential candidate. I don’t think a woman could handle the
demands of the position.
4. Some jobs are better suited for men.
5. Some jobs are better suited for men, but if a woman proves she can handle it, she should be
allowed to do it.
6. Some jobs are better suited for women.
7. Gender (identity) and sex (physiology) are the same and people should be made/taught to act
accordingly.
8. Gender (identity) and sex (physiology) are separate and people should feel free to express
themselves however they feel comfortable.
9. Girls or women who exhibit traits that I think of as masculine make me uncomfortable.
10. Boys or men who exhibit traits that I think of as feminine make me uncomfortable.
11. Chaz Bono should not have been allowed to be on Dancing with the Stars because he is not
really a man.
12. Women who wear provocative clothing are asking for trouble.
13. Women should be allowed to dress however they like without worrying they will be harassed or
assaulted.

Homosexuality
1. Homosexuality is morally wrong.
2. Homosexuality is a mental illness.
3. Homosexuality is just the way some people are.
4. I have friends who identify as gay, lesbian, or bisexual.
5. I would be comfortable having a homosexual roommate.
6. If a close friend or family member told me he/she was gay, lesbian, or bisexual; I would feel sad
for him/her.
7. Bullying based on sexual orientation and gender is a major problem.
8. Bullying is a part of growing up and kids need to learn how to deal with it.
9. If someone believes in something that you do not, you should avoid that person so you don’t have
deal with it.

Capital Punishment
1. An eye for an eye; people who kill should be killed.
2. Capital punishment should be reserved only for the worst cases.
3. An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind; capital punishment should never be used.
4. Capital punishment should only be used if it saves money.
World Relations
1. The United States has a moral obligation to intervene when other countries have problems.
2. The United States has a moral obligation to intervene when human rights violations take place.
3. The United States should focus on domestic issues rather than getting involved in other countries.

Poverty
1. People have a moral obligation to help those who are less fortunate.
2. People should earn a living and welfare should be limited.
3. Welfare should be eliminated and people should be forced to work.
4. Welfare should only exist for children, the elderly, and the disabled.
5. People who abuse the welfare system should have their benefits taken away.
6. Welfare participants should be required to participate in education or job training.
7. Welfare participants should be required to take tests to prove they are not using drugs or alcohol.
8. The government should stay out of welfare and let non-profit organizations handle that.

Health Care
1. All people are entitled to health care regardless of what they can afford.
2. The quality of health care should be reflective of what you pay; higher price for better care.
3. Free health care should be provided for only the most serious cases.
4. Free health care should be provided to everyone and paid for by tax dollars.
5. All people should be required to have health insurance; that would eliminate all the tax dollars that go to emergency care for the uninsured.
6. Preventative measures and screenings should be provided because they save money in the long run.