



Ridiculous Questions

Information for students

- Are hot dogs a sandwich?
- Is cereal a soup?
- Is Hawaiian pizza (a pizza with pineapple and ham as the toppings) really a pizza?

Society includes people with a variety of opinions. While we may not agree with everyone, understanding where their opinion comes from helps society flourish. Ambivalence is a topic that is explored throughout this course. Having a strong opinion about a given subject is important too. However, feeling strongly about something while having a deep understanding of the other side of the argument can help with refining your ideas to better support your opinion. It can also improve your ability to have a civil discussion with others who might disagree with your opinion.

Although the above questions do seem a little ridiculous (hence the title), they are being used as a stand-in for more controversial topics. Even so, despite the less serious tone of these questions, some people have strong opinions about these three topics. The goal of this exercise is to develop an understanding of the opinion of others.

- Answer the following questions with a short paragraph explaining your answer. Your explanations should not be based on emotion or feeling, but with facts and evidence
- After you have completed the paragraph that supports your opinion for each question, write another paragraph for each question that goes against your opinion. This will help with understanding someone else's point of view

Information for parents

About the activity

- Discuss the task together with your child
- Each paragraph should state your child's opinion and approximately three sentences with different ideas (facts, evidence) to support that opinion
- **There is no right or wrong answer.** As long as your child provides support for their ideas, this exercise has been successfully completed