

Social & Emotional Learning

THE VALUE OF LISTENING



Claude Van Lingen, *1,000 Years from Now: I Am Right and You Are Wrong*, 1956

Graphite on paper, 28 x 16 3/4 in., Blanton Museum of Art, The University of Texas at Austin, Gift of the artist, 2010

obscured	<i>Hidden from view.</i>
compromise	<i>A deal in which people with different ideas give up some of what they want so the group can make progress.</i>
adamant	<i>Firm; unyielding; "rock solid."</i>
consequence	<i>The result that comes about because of a decision or action.</i>
rigid	<i>Not flexible.</i>

Think about your first reaction to the drawing by Claude van Lingen. Complete the sentence stem:

At first I thought _____

Your ideas have probably changed after looking more closely, and thinking about the meaning of the work.

But now I think _____

How willing are you to change your mind, when you hear new information that you haven't considered? Truly listening to someone else's point of view can sometimes change our thinking. Instead of saying, "I am right... you are wrong!" look for more chances to say, "I used to think...but now I think."

I used to think _____

But now I think _____

I used to think _____

But now I think _____

Are you naturally curious and able to consider several possibilities at once? When you find yourself disagreeing with somebody, how do you try to express your own point of view, so that others will listen?

Circle strategies from the list below that work for you and underline a new strategy you want to try.

Stay calm

Express feelings

Bully

Ask for feedback

Talk fast

Use humor

Provide information

Ignore alternatives

Repeat yourself

Line up allies

Tell a story

Draw a picture or diagram

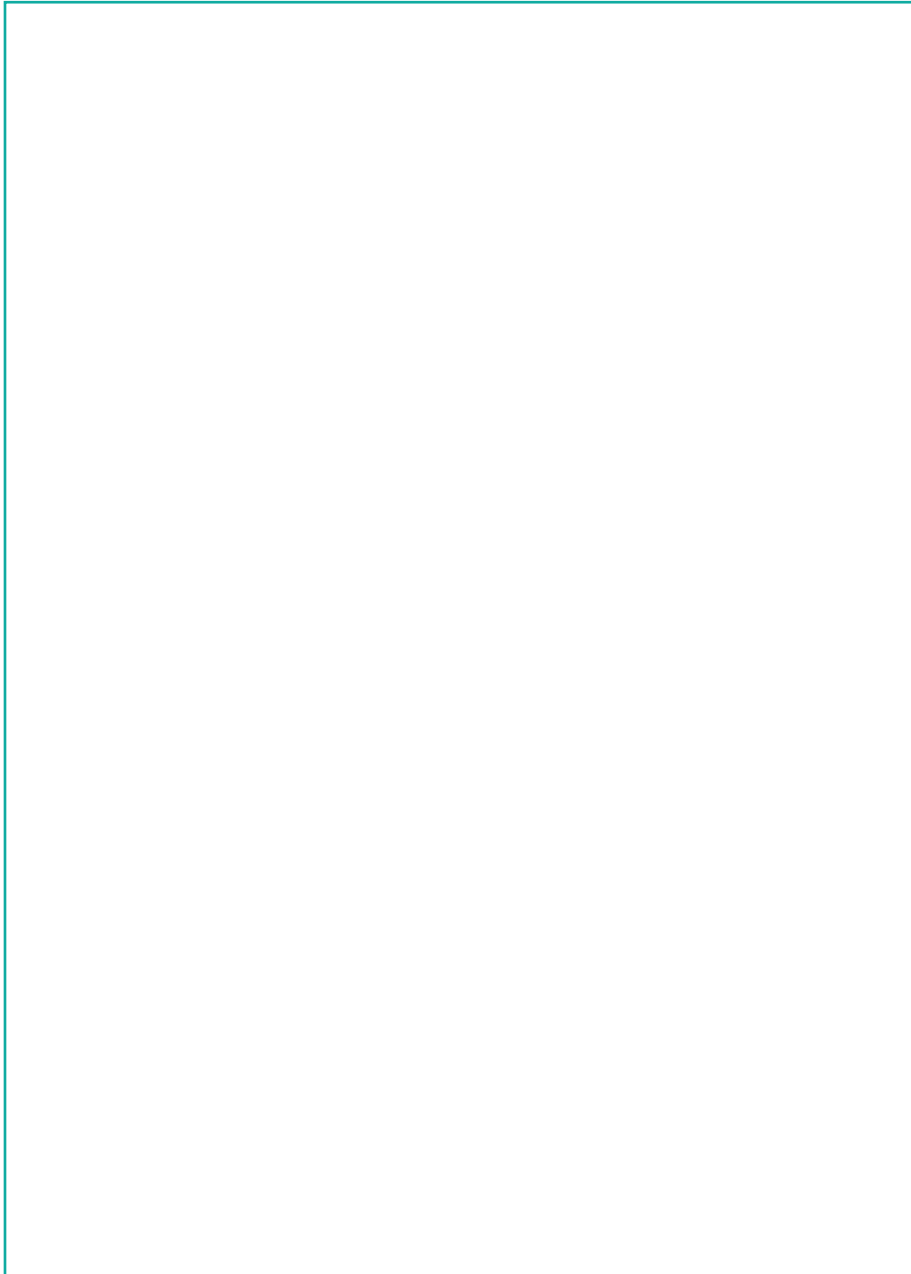
Talk louder

Take a break

Exaggerate

Try to think of a time that good listening or compromise helped solve a disagreement — at home or at school, with a family member, friends or even someone you don't know. Maybe there was a time when someone listened to you and helped you come to a compromise. Write about it here. *If you can't think of a story right now, look for a chance to practice respectful disagreement and careful listening this week, then write about it here.*

What do you think we need to do to make the world a better place? Make a drawing, with graphite on paper, to share a warning — or a positive vision for the future.



FIND OUT MORE...

Learn more about the artist and his creative process

Read *A Studio Visit with Claude van Lingen* by Kevin Ivester at bit.ly/SELResource14

Explore ways to resolve conflicts with negotiation and compromise

Watch *Conflict Resolution: How to Settle Your Differences Fairly* by BrainPOP on YouTube at bit.ly/SELResource15

Watch *Writing on Ribs* by Wendy Williams Watt

Sometimes art is more about an idea than a technique. Here is another example of “conceptual art” that uses words to make the world better. Watch on YouTube at bit.ly/SELResource16

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