

# P

IS FOR POSITION

## PROTEST CHANGE AGENCY COMMUNITY

Line, huddle, crouch, mob, protest, debate, shield, direct, alone, together, strength, group, sit, weakness, solidarity, stand. Sometimes we only have ourselves, our bodies, our feelings and thoughts to work with. Is it possible to take care of the people and objects around us, yet take a stand at the same time?

JUDITH BROCKLEHURST

Note: This activity provides an opportunity to experience adopting a position through the body, on your own and with a group. And to discover that when moving together we have the power to demonstrate our cares and concerns.

ACTIVITY DEvised BY  
ARTIST JUDITH BROCKLEHURST  
in collaboration with Schools and  
Teachers Tate London Learning

BRING ART INTO YOUR CLASSROOM

You can also access the collection  
artworks from [tate.org.uk](http://tate.org.uk)

Apart from your pen and paper, the only other material you have to show how you feel about the artworks around you is your body. Take a moment to check out how your body feels right now – how are you standing, where, with whom?

### ACTION 1: ON YOUR OWN

Choose an artwork and react to it with your body. Adopt a position, take a stand. Show what you're thinking about the artwork through your body language and gestures.

Consider how you feel about the artwork and what you think about it – are you moving or being still, do you feel heavy or light? Are your arms folded or are your hands in pockets?

Look around you, notice other people's gestures in the space.

### ACTION 2: TOGETHER

Form a small group and choose an artwork. React by adopting a position, taking a stand – as a group use your bodies to show how you feel.

Take care of each other, the artworks and the other people in the room.

By moving together can you change the way other people see, understand or move around a public space? Can you have the same effect by moving on your own?

### ACTION 3: CHOOSE ANOTHER ARTWORK, MOVE TOGETHER AND CHANGE YOUR SHAPE AND POSITION

### ACTION 4: COME TOGETHER AS A WHOLE GROUP, HAVE A CONVERSATION

Share your gestures and positions with the rest of the group. Show everyone your shapes – how you moved together and alone.

How was the experience of responding to the artworks by using your bodies to communicate an opinion?

What did it feel like to act as a group compared with acting alone?

How did you decide how the group behaves, what shape it takes?

Did your presence change the meaning of the artworks?

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