

Introductory Game About Shabbat

- Place four standing signs around the room reading: I very much agree, I oppose, I agree, I feel it is unacceptable.
- Explanation: We will present statements expressing various principles and if you who have a position regarding any of them, please stand on the side of the whose statement you agree with.
- Once the participants have settled near the signs, allow them to explain their positions, but prevent lengthy discussions. For every statement, allow about two or three minutes at the most.

Statements

- Without candle lighting and Kiddush – there is no Shabbat.
- Authentic (real) Shabbats are religious ones.
- There is no difference in the sanctity of Shabbat whether you spend it by taking nature walks or praying in the synagogue.
- Businesses should be closed on Shabbat due to violation of workers' rights.
- Businesses should be closed on Shabbat to prevent Shabbat desecration.

Back to the Plenum:

In light of your acquaintance with each other, did some choices made by students surprise you? Why was there an argument over the last two statements (regarding closing businesses)? In what sense are these questions on a different level than the others?

Statements that Transcend the Topic

What leads to the argument is the knowledge shared by all sides of the discussion that it is actually a joint decision that would compel us all, which differs other matters we are used to dealing with, leading us to believe that also with regard to Shabbat, anyone can spend it with one's family or community without any outside intervention.

This distinguishes decisions made by Jews in the Diaspora and decisions made in the State of Israel! This is one of the meanings of being a Zionist: The capacity to argue with my opponent (as opposed to confining myself to associate only with those who agree with me) and to arrive at **joint** decisions.

