



Find Your Frontlines

What Is It? A short introductory activity for people to understand where they are on the frontlines of the climate and ecological crisis.

Why Do it?

- To understand our individual roles on the frontlines of the climate and ecological crisis; to make climate change personal.
 - To make the connections between issues - that the same thing that makes folks poor is the same thing that screws up the atmosphere - and the same problems that come with being oppressed make climate problems worse.
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Time: 10 minutes – 15 minutes

Materials needed:

- A circle drawn or placed on the ground (with rope).
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Directions:

1. Create a circle on the ground, big enough for everyone to stand around.
 2. Have everyone stand on the outside, facing in at each other.
 3. Choose 4-6 prompts (from the list(s) below) and read them aloud one by one, instructing everyone to “take a step into the circle if”.
 4. Read script.
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Prompts:

- *you have to take the bus to get around and your service has been cut*
- *you have had to wait for the bus for more than 15 minutes.*
- *someone in your family suffers from asthma or other health effects from pollution*
- *your family has had to move because of war*



- *your family has had to move because they needed work*
- *you are more than a 10 minute walk to a place that sells fresh fruits and vegetables.*
- *you don't know where your water comes from and you live in California*
- *your family has to choose between which needs – health care, housing, food—get met when there isn't enough money*
- *you live within 3 blocks of a freeway.*

Additional prompts:

Here are some additional prompts that you could choose to use. Some of them can be emotionally loaded or triggering, or just more personal, so it's the facilitator's call whether they are appropriate for the group. If the group feels safe enough, and they are appropriate to use, they could be powerful in further helping to make connections between social justice and climate issues that aren't commonly made.

- *you or someone in your family has lost their job in the last three years.*
- *you, or someone you are close to has gone to jail.*
- *you or someone you know couldn't go to school because they didn't have bus fare.*
- *you or someone close to you didn't use the heat this winter cause the bill is too expensive (or had their utilities shut off).*
- *you or someone in your family has had to move in the past 3 years cause the rent is too damn high!*
- *you or someone in your family suffered during an extreme weather event, such as Katrina, tsunamis, drought, or forest fires.*
- *at your school, there are not enough text books for every kid in the class; or there are not enough school supplies for each classroom.*
- *the bathrooms or drinking fountains in your school don't work.*

Script:

If you're in the circle, you are on the frontlines of the climate and ecological crisis. The same thing that makes folks poor is the same thing that screws up the atmosphere - and the same problems that come with being oppressed make climate problems worse. A key way to make sure that you are living in harmony with your ecosystem is to make sure that everyone is taken care of.



Fun/interactive twist:

You can turn this into a fun human knot activity, by having them work through a human knot by reading the script below.

Script:

(After reading the last prompt) Put your hands up. Take the hands of two different people. Now you have 7 minutes to untie the knot without letting go of your hands.