

STEP TO THE LINE

Objectives

- Students will observe (and potentially discuss) their commonalities and differences
- Students will identify intersections between the themes of *Kristina Wong, Sweatshop Overlord* and their own life experiences

Materials needed

- Masking tape
- Prompts list

Activity

Kristina Wong, Sweatshop Overlord centers around an online community of people across America who sewed masks as a way to help others during the 2020 COVID-19 outbreak. Today, we're going to do an activity that will allow us to see what we have in common as a class, and what experiences we had in common as we coped with the 2020 pandemic.

Preparation

- Make a tape line across the floor and ask students to line up in front of it.
- Select prompts from the list below. If they apply to the student, the student will step forward onto the line.
- Students should acknowledge who has stepped forward in some way. This could look like students high-fiving each other on the line, speaking about the prompt, or simply taking a moment to look around at who is standing with them before stepping back. Responses should be cued by the instructor and can change from prompt to prompt. All sharing must be voluntary.

Prompts

Step to the Line if:

- You're an only child
- You consider yourself to be an introvert
- You're close with your family
- You have friendships that are as strong as family
- You know how to sew
- You have grandparents that were born outside of the United States
- You have parents born outside of the United States
- If you were born outside of the United States
- You like to hug someone when you say hello
- You don't like being hugged
- You've ever learned a TikTok dance
- People often mispronounce your name
- You ever fell asleep during a Zoom class
- You made a friend online during lockdown
- You ever wore a homemade mask

- Your family hoarded toilet paper during lockdown
- You felt lonely during the pandemic
- You lost somebody in the pandemic
- You learned a new skill during the pandemic
- You helped other people during the pandemic
- Other people helped you during the pandemic

Post-Activity Reflection

- Take a moment to quietly reflect on what we just learned about your classmates. With whom did you have a lot of things in common? What did you learn about a classmate that surprised you? Are there ways we can still help one another as we continue to deal with the pandemic and the stress of coming back into the world?
- Who are the people who helped you survive this? What do you hope for as we move forward? Will you be generous in more than times of crisis?

Extensions and Variations

If the learning area doesn't easily facilitate a long line, you could have students form a circle around the room and take one step forward when they agree with a prompt. In a tight space, students could simply rise from their desks to signify agreement.

Students can lead portions of this game as well, calling out prompts that they generate.