

## Connected Student Leadership Strategy: How can you be neutral?

Reflecting on and defining leadership as a supportive ecosystem

Connection to Belonging: Unique contribution 🦄, Discussion and Dialogue 🗣️, Psychological safety 🛡️, Connection 🔗

Inspiration: In May of 2022, the United States was abuzz about a leaked draft of a Supreme Court decision that appeared to overturn Roe v. Wade, opening the door to laws banning abortion in some states. In Anna's English class at the Arsakeio private high school in the suburbs of Thessaloniki, students were up to date on the news. After a brief introduction to the issue of bodily autonomy, Anna told students that they need to think of themselves as citizens of the world. She gave them three minutes to consider and discuss with a partner the legal and social reason to take away bodily autonomy from three perspectives: pro-life, pro-choice, and neutral.

Several students could not imagine a neutral perspective. We discussed the number of Americans who do think that the issue of bodily autonomy is a political issue and, therefore, choose not to express an opinion or get involved. Although the students rejected this idea, Anna and I explained that some people think they can be neutral on issues whether you believe in neutrality.

In conclusion, the class decided our common humanity is affected by social issues. They recognized that decisions could have ripple effects on others in our connected global society.

Strategy: Bring discussions of global events into your classroom with a similar structure. Students draw a table and take some notes while discussing with a partner for 3 min.

Reasons or impact	Pro	Con	Neutral
Social			

Political			
Economics			
Cultural			
... (misc.)			

Then discuss it as a whole class.

Competencies: Communication, Critical Thinking, Collaboration, Confidence