Hop the Fence

Line of inquiry
Is the grass always greener over the fence? How different are we in our school community? How similar?

Grade range: 1-12
Group size: 5-9 students per group
Materials: Tape, chalk, ribbon, old game pieces, poker chips, or students can create their own symbols of themselves for this activity. In advance, the facilitator will create a dozen or more pairs of words on cards, i.e. Chocolate or Vanilla; Mountains or City; Born in Utah or Born outside of Utah, etc. The facilitator will choose pairs of words that the students can relate to. Have slips of colored paper handy - about 1”x1” – in two distinct colors (such as green and yellow); students will need paper and glue.

Activity Objective: Ask students to identify their preferences and traits
Time: 45 minutes. It’s a good introductory activity having multiple disciplines
Skills: Critical thinking skills, communication, cooperation
Space: The facilitator will create a playing field; this can be a large sheet of paper, a tabletop, the playground, or the gym. The facilitator will create the space using a line down the middle of the paper or a line on the floor.
Directions: There will be two sides in the space. If played in a large area, each group will stand on one side or the other of a rope (or tape or ribbon) that is lying on the ground. If in a small space, they can create a token for themselves. The two teams assemble in front, facing the facilitator. As the choices are called out, one side of the rope is assigned one word: chocolate and the other: vanilla, etc. The players will assemble on whichever side they prefer. Then, players will pick up a square of green or yellow paper – depending on the side they were on. The facilitator will reassemble teams and go through 10-12 different pairs of words.

Deliver the Challenge: Students will then create a graph by gluing the green and yellow squares vertically in two corresponding columns. They can now quickly identify how much they have in common with their classmates.