

Positive Humanism and Common Humanity

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Positive Humanism embraces
common values to which people of
all faiths and none could subscribe

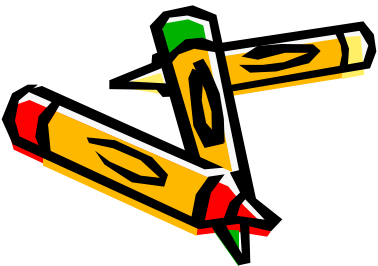


Positive Humanism

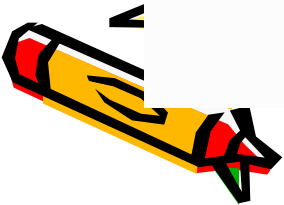
Christian
Humanism

Moslem Humanism
& other faiths

Secular Humanism
Atheistic/agnostic



Scottish Humanists..

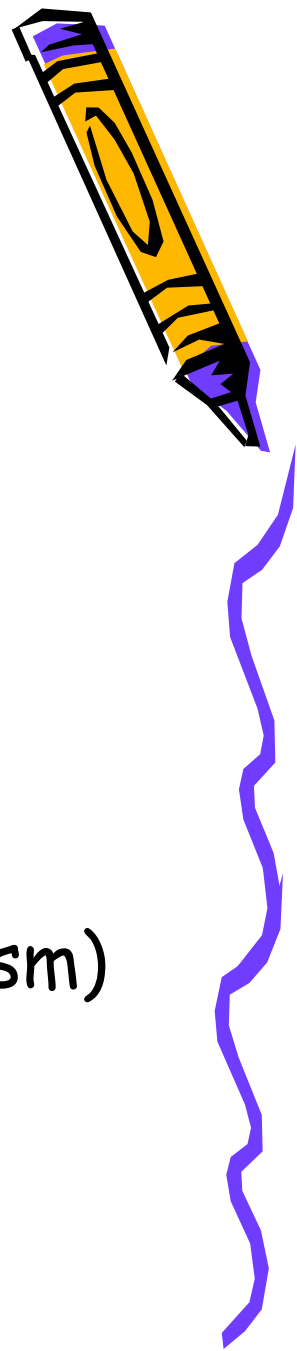


Humanism makes sense

- Combines a rational scientific approach to life with the religious social values - creating a Good Society where people show warmth and care for others.
- Humanist values can break down divisions in society



Positive Humanism



- Humanism embodies a core set of humanitarian principles which are widely held among:
 - Christians, Jews, Moslems, Hindus, Buddhists etc
 - Agnostics, Atheists (Secular Humanism)



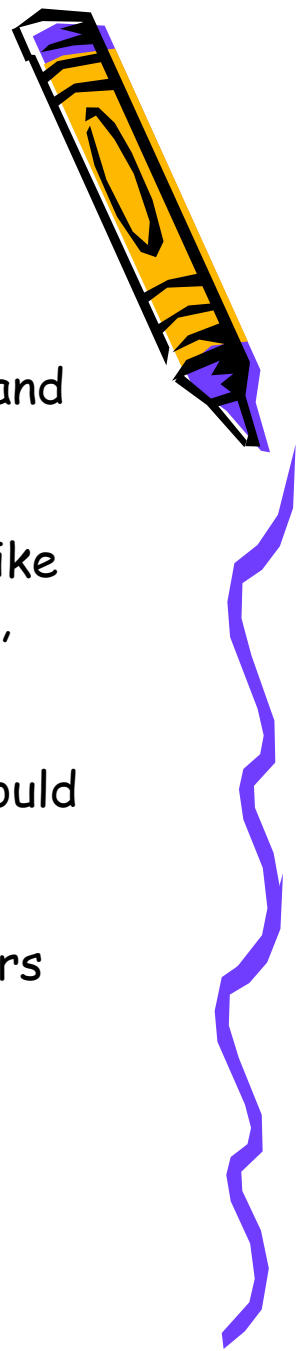
Religions have much in common...

Christianity All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye so to them; for this is the law and the prophets. Matthew 7:1

Confucianism Do not do to others what you would not like yourself. Then there will be no resentment against you, either in the family or in the state. Analects 12:2

Buddhism Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful. Udana-Varga 5,1

Hinduism This is the sum of duty; do naught onto others what you would not have them do unto you. Mahabharata 5,1517

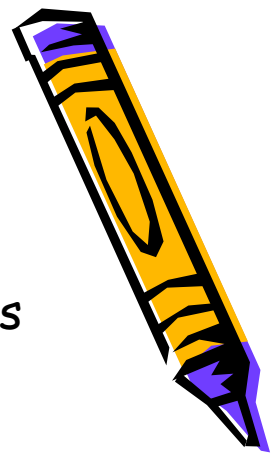


Islam No one of you is a believer until he desires for his brother that which he desires for himself. Sunnah

Judaism What is hateful to you, do not do to your fellowman. This is the entire Law; all the rest is commentary. Talmud, Shabbat 3id

Taoism Regard your neighbour's gain as your gain, and your neighbour's loss as your own loss. Tai Shang Kan Yin P'ien

Zoroastrianism That nature alone is good which refrains from doing another whatsoever is not good for itself.



An important word for Humanists is:

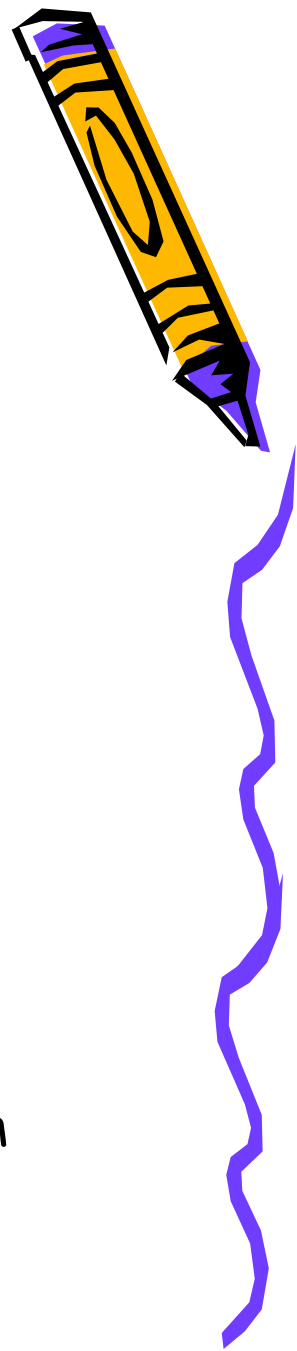
EMPATHY



We try to imagine ourselves in other people's shoes.

We try to feel their joy and their pain.

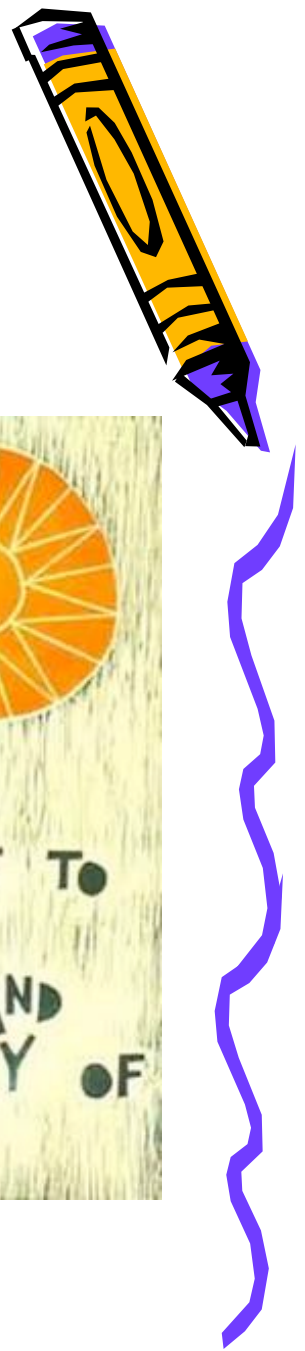
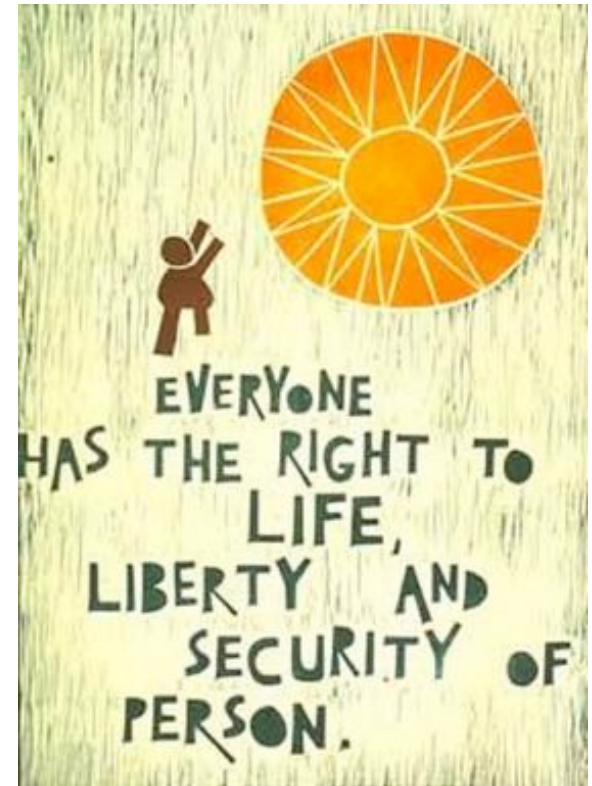
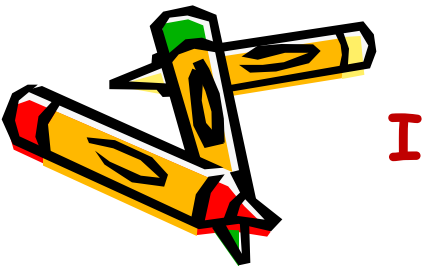
If we see someone in need we try to do our best to help them



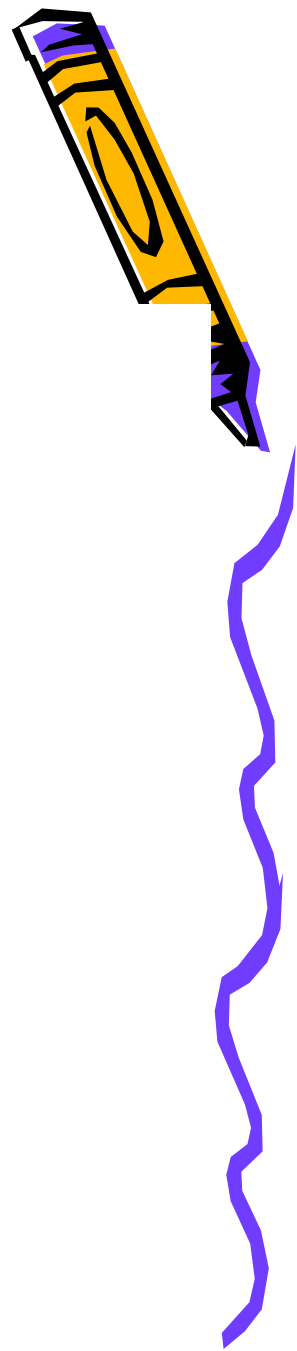
Humanists support...

The Universal Declaration on Human Rights

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and **should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.**



Paul Tobim - Humanist Society of Singapore



David Attenborough on religion and God



2002 Amsterdam Declaration of Humanist Principles



1. **Humanism is ethical.** It affirms the worth, dignity and autonomy of the individual and the right of every human being to the greatest possible freedom compatible with the rights of others. Humanists have a duty of care to all of humanity including future generations. Humanists believe that morality is an intrinsic part of human nature based on understanding and a concern for others, needing no external sanction.

2. **Humanism is rational.** It seeks to use science creatively, not destructively. Humanists believe that the solutions to the world's problems lie in human thought and action rather than divine intervention. Humanism advocates the application of the methods of science and free inquiry to the problems of human welfare. But Humanists also believe that the application of science and technology must be tempered by human values. Science gives us the means but human values must propose the ends.

3. **Humanism supports democracy and human rights.** Humanism aims at the fullest possible development of every human being. It holds that democracy and human development are matters of right. The principles of democracy and human rights can be applied to many human relationships and are not restricted to methods of government.

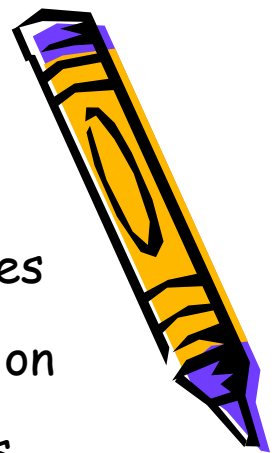


4. Humanism insists that personal liberty must be combined with social responsibility. Humanism ventures to build a world on the idea of the free person responsible to society, and recognises our dependence on and responsibility for the natural world. Humanism is undogmatic, imposing no creed upon its adherents. It is thus committed to education free from indoctrination.

5. Humanism is always searching for better ways to do things and to live life. Humanism recognises that reliable knowledge of the world and ourselves arises through a continuing process of observation, evaluation and revision.

6. Humanism values artistic creativity and imagination and recognises the transforming power of art. Humanism affirms the importance of literature, music, and the visual and performing arts for personal development and fulfilment.

7. Humanism is a life stance aiming at the maximum possible fulfilment through the cultivation of ethical and creative living and offers an ethical and rational means of addressing the challenges of our times.



Implication for teachers



When a school has a Humanist Ethos, how should this affect the way the school:

- Organises teaching and learning
- Manages behaviour and discipline?

