## Conditions of teaching and learning

## Work file 6: Rethinking the teacher's role from a democratic point of view

Teachers have to lead and accompany the class. This is their task. They have to decide on various things and also control everything. What teachers should not do is to aim at also controlling thinking processes and personal development of their students. Especially in EDC/HRE, the teacher becomes a role model for his/her students. How does he/she deal with conflicts? What idea of people does he/she promote? The following list gives a clue where one can position oneself. But it is clear, however, that according to learning situation, mood of the day, moments of danger or set-up of the group of students, etc., it can make sense to be more autocratic or to be more democratic. Generally it is important to note: my idea of a person as a teacher will leave an imprint on my daily work with the students.

Learning situation		
Rather autocratic	Me	Rather democratic
Ruler		Leader
Sharp voice		Friendly voice
Order		Invitation, request
Power		Influence
Pressure		Suggestion
Demand of compliance		Winning over to co-operation
Imposition of tasks		Offering of ideas
Predominant mode of criticism		Frequent encouragement
Frequent punishment		Frequent support and help
"I'm telling you!"		"Let's talk it over."
"I decide, you obey!"		"I make a proposal and help you to decide."
Sole responsibility for the group		Shared responsibility with and in the