

What's Inside

Step-by-Step Instructions:

1. Start by having the class form pairs.
2. Have each pair decide who will be person A and who will be person B.
3. Ask participant to select a bag quickly (or you can pass them out).
4. Tell group members not to touch another person's bag and not to open their own bags until instructed (step 9). Say person B should be holding the bag.
5. Explain that each person will have five chances to guess what is in the bag. As group members guess, they should write it down on index cards.
6. Without touching the bag, have person A write down his/her first guess.
7. Direct person A to hold the bag from the top only, in order to have an idea of how much it weighs, and make a second guess.
8. Tell person A to feel the bag to determine the shape of the object inside, and make a third guess.
9. Have person B open the bag and give person A a one-word clue, so person A can make a fourth guess.
10. Direct person B to give person A a full-sentence clue that explains how he/she may use the object, and have person A make a fifth guess.
11. Finally, person B can show the objects in the bag and see if any of person A's guesses were correct.
12. Have the teams switch roles for round two so that Person A is holding the bag and Person B is guessing.

Group Size: 11 to 25

Time Needed: 11 to 20 minutes

Goal: To enhance participants' communication and problem-solving skills

Audience: Couples, Teens, Parents, Children, Singles

Special Considerations: None

Resources Needed:

- ✓ brown lunch bag with one small item inside, one index card and one pen/pencil per person. (Try to have a different item in each bag and glue or staple all bags shut.)

Tips for Discussion and Processing

This activity can make a dramatic point about getting all the information before one makes any assumptions. Discuss how far off the guesses were when participants had limited information and how, when more information was gathered, better guesses were made. Ask participants if they have ever made quick decisions or assumptions because they did not take the time to get all of the information. You can also relate this activity to communication skills and how important it is to gather all the information so that you can truly understand what the other person is trying to relay.