

What's Inside

Step-by-Step Instructions:

1. Start by having the class form pairs.
2. Instruct each team to decide who will be person "A" and who will be person "B."
3. Have all person "B's" to select a bag quickly (or you can hand them out).
4. Instruct the group that no one should touch a bag that is not their own and they should not open their bag until instructed (step 9). Tell them person "B" should be holding the bag.
5. Explain to the group that person "A" will have 5 chances to guess what is in the bag. As they guess they should write their guesses down on their index card.
6. Without touching the bag, have each person "A" write down their first guess.
7. For their second guess, person "A" can hold the bag from the top only. This can give them an idea of how much it weighs.
8. For their third guess, person "A" can feel the bag to determine the shape of the object inside.
9. For the fourth guess, person "B" should open the bag and give person "A" a one-word clue.
10. For the fifth guess, person "B" should give their partners a full-sentence clue that explains how he or she may use the object.
11. Finally person "B" can show the objects in the bags and see if any of "A's" guesses were correct.

Tips for Discussion and Processing

This activity can make a dramatic point about getting all the information before one makes any assumptions. With the group you can 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 and ask them to reflect on the outcome. You can also relate this activity to communication skills and how important it is to gather all the information to truly understand what the other person is trying to relay.

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:

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