



Activity: Card Heads (Non-verbal Communication and School Spirit)
Materials: 1 or 2 decks of normal playing cards (depending upon the size of the group).

Procedure:

- Explain that each person will receive one card. They are to “draw” it off the top of the deck and without looking at it, place it on their foreheads with the ‘value side’ facing out. They must hold it in place with one finger (be careful which finger you use to hold it in place!)
- Once everyone is ‘poised’ for action, give them the following instructions: “I will give you approximately five minutes to ‘mingle’ with your peers/colleagues. When you meet someone who has a ‘face-card’ or an ace, you must react as though you are very excited to see them and strike up a conversation with them. If you feel comfortable, ‘hang out’ with them. On the other hand, if you meet someone with a low value card, you must react in a manner that would let that person know you are less than excited to meet them. If the person you meet has a middle value card, react accordingly.
- Questions?
- Give the start command – eg. MINGLE!
- After approximately five minutes, give the “FREEZE” command.
- Without talking, have the participants put themselves in order from lowest to highest card face value.
- Once completed, have the participants return to their seats for the activity processing.

ACTIVITY PROCESSING QUESTIONS:

1. What happened as you made your way around the room and introduced yourself to other people?
2. How long did it take you to ‘get a feel’ for what value of card you had?
3. If you had a low value card, how long did it take you to make the connection? What kind of “clues” did other people give you.
4. Who had an ‘ACE’? How did people respond to you?
5. Was it easy for you to “mistreat” someone you met with a lower face value card?
6. How successful were you in putting yourselves in order near the end of the activity?

Make the following point:

Every person in your school knows exactly where they ‘fit-in’ based on the way that we respond to them on a daily basis. When you meet someone in the hallway and either say “Hello” or say nothing, it just helps to affirm where they feel they belong. Maslow’s Hierarchy tells us that we must meet the basic needs of people before we can expect them to participate. I agree. Consider this, experience tells us that we must make people feel ‘like they belong and are accepted for who they are’ before we can ever expect them to participate in any of our activities/events.

We tend to organize activities/events that “we” enjoy doing. Maybe it is time to evaluate your school community and make sure you are meeting the needs and interests of everyone! When you – **HOLD ON!** It will be totally awesome!

Activity taken from Tom Heethius Leadership Show