

Overview:

This lesson plan will challenge participants to learn about difference and connect with others who have experiences different from theirs. They will mingle with others in the room and find a partner who is different from them in at least six ways.

Background and Information:

This exercise can be used whenever a facilitator needs to pair up individuals across difference. It was first created as a part of a workshop facilitated by Michael Vande Berg at Purdue University.

Objectives:

As a result of this activity, participants will be able to:

1. Assess difference based on more than physical appearance.

Time:

10 minutes

Group Size:

Pairs

Materials:

PowerPoint slide with list of differences (see [Downloads](#)).

Intercultural Development Continuum Stages:

- Denial
- Polarization
- Minimization
- Acceptance

AAC&U Intercultural Knowledge and Competence Goals:

Cultural Self-Awareness:

- To articulate insights into own cultural rules and biases (e.g., seeking complexity; aware of how their experiences have shaped these rules, and how to recognize and respond to cultural biases, resulting in a shift in self-description).

Openness:

- To initiate and develop interactions with culturally different others.
- To suspend judgment in valuing interactions with culturally different others.

Empathy

- To interpret intercultural experience from the perspectives of own and more than one worldview.
- To demonstrate ability to act in a supportive manner that recognizes the feelings of another cultural group

Curiosity:

- To ask complex questions about other cultures.
- To seek out and articulate answers to these questions that reflect multiple cultural perspectives.

Other Skills:

Friendship, Teamwork, Diversity & Inclusion

Activity instructions:

1. Display the PowerPoint slide from Downloads over a projector and instruct students to find someone else in the room who differs in at least six of the following ways:
 - First language
 - Country of origin
 - Someone at least 2 years different in age from you
 - College or school in which your major is listed
 - Number of children in your family
 - Number of countries in which you have lived for at least a year or more
 - Whether Purdue (or your institution) counts you as a domestic or an international student
 - Whether you are a member of the majority or an ethnic minority in your home country
 - Religion
 - Sexual orientation
 - Rural, urban, suburban
 - Public or private schooling during high school
 - Boarding school experience
 - Number of pets

Related Tools:

Tools to use in conjunction with this lesson:

- [25 Questions](#)
- [Can Anyone Hear Me?](#)
- [Different Similarities](#)
- [Digging Deeper Diversity Questions](#)
- [A Life without Questions or No Questions, Please!](#)
- [Picture Storytelling](#)
- [Similarities and Differences](#)
- [Yes/No](#)

Similar tools:

- [If I Woke Up Tomorrow](#)
- [Up-Down-Up](#)