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