

## Overview:

This lesson plan will challenge participants to learn how to identify dialogue blockers and understand how they obstruct conversations. They will be provided with a transcript for a conversation that was derailed by dialogue blockers, and they must identify where they appear in the conversation.

## Background and Information:

Dialogue Blocker Activity is published by the LSA Inclusive Teaching Initiative, University of Michigan (see citation below).

## Objectives:

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

1. "Recognize common dialogue blockers and how they impact conversation."
2. "Develop a list of ground rules that are supportive of thoughtful dialogue and inclusivity" (LSA Inclusive Teaching Initiative, University of Michigan, 2017).

## Time:

30 minutes

## Group Size:

Small group

## Materials:

Highlighters (one for every two participants), pens/pencils (one for every two participants), copies of Post Mortem: A Conversation Gone Wrong and Common Dialogue Blockers (both in [Links](#)).

## Intercultural Development Continuum Stages:

- Denial
- 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.

## Verbal and Nonverbal Communication:

- To articulate a complex understanding of cultural differences in verbal and nonverbal communication (e.g., demonstrates understanding of the degree to which people use physical contact while communicating in different cultures or use direct/indirect and explicit/implicit meanings).
- To skillfully negotiate a shared understanding based on these differences.

## Other Skills:

Friendship, Teamwork, Diversity & Inclusion

## Links to Activity Instructions:

- [Dialogue Blocker Activity instructions on the LSA Inclusive Teaching website](#)

## Related Tools:

*Similar tools:*

- [Can Anyone Hear Me?](#)
- [Dominant Narratives](#)
- [Perfectly Logical Explanations](#)
- [Sample Conflict Situations](#)
- [What is White Privilege, Really?](#)
- [White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack](#)
- [Whiteness Project Activity on White Privilege](#)