

Introduction:

As per Stanchfield (2021):

“Handshake Mingle blended with reflection and rapport building questions has [been a] main staple of my community building and academic/training engagement repertoire for many years. It is a favorite because there is choice involved, and no one person is in the spotlight. It also works as an active processing/reflection/review activity to start group dialogue on a specific experience or academic/training topic. This tried-and-true method is social and incrementally sequenced and useful for building rapport, making introductions, creating connections, reviewing names, and becoming more comfortable with each other. This activity can be used a number of times throughout a group’s experience to reflect and review and create context around a subject.”

Objectives:

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

1. Identify and enact greetings from around the world.
2. Build rapport and engage in meaningful interactions with others.

Time:

30 minutes.

Group Size:

Small group.

Materials:

As per Stanchfield (2021):

“None needed, but entry-task objects/images and quotes can be woven into this activity. I also like to create the first partnering using an object-based connection such as dominoes, playing cards, match game cards (see post). I always make this deeper introductory activity or a kinesthetic reflection or review by mix get-to-know-you or reflective questions into the exercise, so having these reflection or review prompts prepared in advance can be helpful.”

Intercultural Development Continuum Stages:

- Denial
- Polarization
- Minimization
- Acceptance

AAC&U Intercultural Knowledge and Competence Goals:

Knowledge of Cultural Worldview Frameworks

- To demonstrate sophisticated understanding of the complexity of elements important to members of another culture in relation to its history, values, politics, communication styles, economy, or beliefs & practices.

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.

Activity Instructions:

1. Link to activity instructions:
 - <https://blog.experientialtools.com/2021/09/02/air-handshake-mingle-and-distanced-concentric-circles-active-engagement-and-social-connection-at-a-physical-distance/>
2. Divide participants into groups of 2-4 and ask them to discuss the following points:
 - What non-touch greetings do you regularly use, and which ones were new for you?
 - What did it feel like to do the alternative handshake gestures from around the world? Did some feel more familiar to you than others? Why?
 - Can you see yourself adapting any of these non-touch gestures in your daily life? Which ones? Why?
3. Bring the entire group back together and debrief the activity by asking following questions:
 - What is/are your favorite non-touch greeting(s)? In what context(s) would you use it/them? In what context(s) would you not use it/them? Explain.
 - Will you continue using non-touch gestures after the pandemic and/or after this activity? Which one(s) will you retain? Explain.

Related Tools:

- [Hand Shake Mingle](#)
- [Icebreaker Grab Bag](#)
- [Nonverbal Communication: Greetings](#)
- [Observing Body Language](#)