

Introduction:

As per Jennifer Stanchfield (2013):

“This activity involves multiple ‘lines of communication’ with some participants limited to verbal only communication, some to non-verbal, and a person who must respond to directions through these multiple modalities. This is a great way to illustrate how challenging giving, receiving, and interpreting directions can be.”

Objectives:

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

1. Examine and discuss assumptions around communication and the factors that lead to communication breakdowns.
2. Communicate multimodally in the face of frustration using all available resources, both nonverbal and verbal.

Time:

30 minutes.

Group Size:

Small Group.

Materials:

Basic props (see [link to activity instructions](#) for more details).

Intercultural Development Continuum Stages:

- Denial
- Polarization
- Minimization
- Acceptance

AAC&U Intercultural Knowledge and Competence Goals:

Verbal and Nonverbal Communication

- 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).

Other Skills:

Teamwork.

Link to Activity Instructions:

- <https://blog.experientialtools.com/2013/10/17/communication-focused-activities-part-three/>

