

Activity: Partner Talk**Addresses: Intercultural Competence****Aims/Intended Learning Outcomes:** For participants to recognize that people communicate differently, based mostly from cultural context.
Cross Cultural Communication Activity.**Time required:** 15 to 25 minutes total (7-10 minutes for partner dialogue; 10-15 minutes for group discussion of activity)**Group size:** any**Context/setting:** In the classroom - On the campus - In the Halls of Residence - Outdoors**Description/Instructions:**

Participants may remain in their seat, unless sitting alone. In that event, they will need to sit with another participant.

□ Pass out one slip of paper to each person, in A-B-C-D order of slips (1st person gets Group A slip, 2nd person get Group B slip, 3rd person gets Group C slip, 4th person gets Group D slip. Keep in that order until each person has received a slip).

□ As you are passing out slips, ask participants to silently read their instructions, but do not share what is written on the slip with anyone.

□ Each member of Group A will partner with a member of Group B; Group C members will partner with Group D members.

□ If there are an odd number of participants, a helper will need to participate.

□ Partners will have 7-10 minutes to learn more about each other, based on what is on their slip of paper.

□ As a guide, you may post examples of questions partners could ask each other.

□ Once you have reconvened, ask a volunteer from Group A to read their instructions aloud. After they have read their instructions, ask a Group B volunteer to discuss how they were impacted by Group A's behavior. Repeat for Groups B through D.

□ Participants may then discuss how being unaware of differences in cross-cultural communication style may hinder the helping process.

□ Ask group how the knowledge gained from the activity can be translated into

specific enhancements or changes in their work with others.

Group A (Follow directions outlined below)

- ☐ Avoid eye contact when speaking to your partner
- ☐ Do not show any emotion or react to your partner when he or she is speaking

Group B (Follow directions outlined below)

- ☐ Sit/stand approx. 6 inches closer to your partner than you normally would
- ☐ Use gestures often when you are speaking

Group C (Follow directions outlined below)

- ☐ Speak more loudly than you normally would and interrupt your partner fairly often
- ☐ Initiate conversation by asking a lot of questions (include very personal ones)

Group D (Follow directions outlined below)

- ☐ Speak more softly than you normally would and don't interrupt your partner
- ☐ Silently count to six before responding
- ☐ Don't initiate conversation or ask questions

Materials needed: Slips of paper with the instructions

Inspired by: Cultural and Linguistic Competence Icebreakers, Exercises, Videos and Movies- Technical Assistance Partnership 2012