

CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNICATION ACTIVITY: UNCOCKTAIL PARTY

Objective: Experience “culture clash” through communication differences in proxemics (space) and kinesics (non-verbal communication).

Materials: Party Instructions for Groups A & B, optional munchies and drink

Instructions:

Divide group in half. If possible, send one group outside the room. Hand out instructions to Group B and review instructions with them, answering any questions they may have. Have them begin to interact with each other so they can practice these instructions with each other. Meanwhile, brief the other group and hand out instructions for Group A. Once Group A has been briefed and prepped, have Group A rejoin Group B for the “party.” (Note: It is helpful to provide munchies and drinks to lend a “cocktail” party atmosphere.) The goal during the “party” is for participants to meet as many other persons as possible, not necessarily just ones from the other group. Depending on the size of the groups let them mingle approximately 10 minutes. Then, debrief the exercise, particularly in regard to proxemics and kinesics.

☺ PARTY INSTRUCTIONS FOR GROUP A:

- 1) Always speak softly and quietly
- 2) Stand at least an arm’s length away (or further) whenever you are in conversation with someone
- 3) Don’t look persons in the eye when talking with them
- 4) Try not to touch anyone, especially when talking with them – keep your hands by your side at all times
- 5) Smile only at persons you know

Have fun and meet as many people as you can during the “party!”

☺ PARTY INSTRUCTIONS FOR GROUP B:

- 1) Speak loudly and excitedly
- 2) Stand close to someone when talking with that person – and it’s fine to touch them on the shoulder or arm when talking
- 3) It’s very important to look persons in the eye when talking with them
- 4) It’s fine to use gestures when talking and it’s OK to literally bump into people at the party – (no need to apologize)
- 5) Smiling and being friendly is wonderful!

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☺ **PARTY INSTRUCTIONS FOR GROUP B:**

- 1) Speak loudly and excitedly
- 2) Stand close to someone when talking with that person – and it's fine to touch them on the shoulder, arm, etc. when talking
- 3) It's very important to look persons in the eye when talking with them
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