



Liar's Poker

Developed by Debbie Bambino from memory of the activity modeled by Nancy Mohr

A team building exercise that invites discussion of status in schools...

Materials & Set Up

You'll need a deck of cards and space to mingle in as well as a space to line up numerically at the end. (This can be used with very large groups but you will need a card for each person.)

Time

10-29 minutes, a good after lunch movement activity

Steps

- Ask your group to stand in a circle.
- Fan the playing cards out face down and ask each individual to pick one and place it on their forehead w/o looking at its card value
- Remind folks not to read their cards in other people's glasses.
- Announce that Ace's are high and everyone wants to talk to them!
- Ask folks to mingle for 6-7 minutes keeping in mind that Aces are the highest cards.
- Step back and observe the interaction.
- After 6-7 minutes ask folks to line up w/o looking at their cards. They should place themselves according to the treatment they received during the mingling period, with aces at one end and deuces at the other.
- After the group has assembled, ask them to check their cards and adjust where necessary.
- Get back in the circle and discuss how it felt to be a 2, a 5, an ace etc.
- Ask folks how this stratification and treatment might reflect dynamics in their schools etc.
- Debrief