

Gaining a Different Perspective

15–20 minutes

PURPOSE:

To help participants realize that in a conflict situation they may have to change their position in order to see things from a different perspective.

EQUIPMENT: None

MATERIALS:

Enough picture cards and envelopes so that when the group is divided into pairs, each pair has one card and an envelope.

PROCEDURE:

1. Have the participants count off as As and Bs, and ask the As to come forward to collect envelopes with instruction slips (see **Trainer's Notes**).
2. Ask each A to select a B, and pair up in a place where they can quietly talk, standing face-to-face. Give the As a few seconds to look over the instructions before they say anything to their partners, and then have them wait for a signal to begin.
3. Give the signal to begin, and then allow a minute or two for participants to follow the instructions and discuss what each person saw.
4. After participants have moved to see the other side of the card, have the group reconvene and ask the following questions:
 - What gets in the way of seeing different perspectives?
 - What might be helpful ways to gain different perspectives?
 - What is at stake when learning about a different perspective?

DEBRIEF:

This activity reminds us that people often do not see both sides of a conflict in the same way. It sometimes takes moving from one position to another to understand someone else's point of view.

TRAINER'S NOTES:

It's a good idea to begin with a deck of cards that has an unusual pattern on the back. Prepare in advance slips of paper that read as follows:

At the start signal, stand up and hold up your card with its face toward you, not letting your partner see your side of the card.

Ask the other member of the pair to describe what he or she sees. Explain that you do not see the same thing and suggest that in order for your partner to see what you see, he or she can come and look over your shoulder.