

Intercultural Communicative Competence Training Programme_Module 1

Exercises to Improve Intercultural Communication Skills

EXERCISE 9 - BOMB SHELTER ACTIVITY



Description

This activity is a table top scenario designed to:

1. Help individuals look at their values and beliefs
2. To discuss how values and beliefs are developed

The scenario involves a simulated scenario where a nuclear bomb is inbound and people are evacuating to a bomb shelter with a limited capacity. The team must decide who gets to stay in the bomb shelter and who gets to face certain death.

Group Size: 20 people split in groups of 4-6 people

Time: 30 - 40 minutes

Materials: A copy of the Bomb Shelter information sheet to each team member

Tell a story: *as elaborate or simple about several nuclear bombs were accidentally set off and one is heading somewhere between Lebanon (your nearest country) and here. We are not sure where. We need to go to shelter immediately. 15 people are the only humans left alive on earth.*

Fifteen people have come to the shelter to be let in. It will take 2 weeks for the radiation level to subside to a safe level. Food and supplies can sustain 8 people for 2 weeks. ONLY 8 PEOPLE CAN SURVIVE IN THIS SITUATION. The decision as to who will "survive" must be unanimous.

You must choose only 8 people to enter the bomb shelter.

- **First individually choose the 8 people you want to stay.** (Take 3 minutes to do this).
- **Then divide the class into groups of 4 - 6 and ask them to come to a consensus as to who gets to stay.** Consensus means not just seeing who has the highest number of votes but to collectively agree on the person.
- **You only have 10-15 minutes to come to a consensus as to who stays.**
- **Then each group presents the 8 people that must take the shelter.**

Debriefing questions:

How did your individual choices differ from your groups choices?

Were there any people that you felt strongly about that didn't get on the list and how did that feel?

Where do our values come from?

How does understanding our own values help us with understanding how we want our life to be lived?

How does understanding others values impact relationships individually and in groups?

BOMB SHELTER INFORMATION SHEET

The following 15 people are in a nuclear bomb shelter. A nuclear attack has occurred. These 15 people are the only humans left alive on earth. It will take 2 weeks for the radiation level to subside to a safe level. Food and supplies can sustain 8 people for 2 weeks. **ONLY 8 PEOPLE CAN SURVIVE IN THIS SITUATION.** The decision as to who will “survive” must be unanimous.

1. Dr. George. African-American, 35, married, one child (Bobby), no religious affiliation, PhD in history, college professor, good health, physically active, and enjoys politics.
2. Mrs. Mary. Caucasian, Jewish, 38, BS and MS in Psychology, counselor in a mental health clinic, good health, one child (Bobby), and active in community activities.
3. Bobby Nickelson. Mixed Caucasian and African-American, Jewish, 10, attended special education classes for 4 years, has a mental disability, an IQ of 70, good health, and enjoys pets.
4. Mrs. Garcia. Hispanic, 33, raised Catholic, 9th grade education, exotic dancer, prostitute, good health, in a foster home as a child, was attacked by foster father at age of 12, ran away from home, returned to reformatory where she stayed until 16, and has a 3-week old child, Jean.
5. Fifi Garcia. Three weeks old, Hispanic, in good health, and nursing.
6. Mrs. Pitt. African-American, 32, Protestant, BA, and MA in elementary education, teacher, divorced with one child (Mary), good health, outstanding teacher, enjoys working with children.
7. Mary Pitt. African-American, 8, Protestant, 3rd grade, excellent student, and in good health.
8. John Jacobs. Asian-American, 13, Protestant, 8th grade, honor student, and in good health.
9. Mr. Newton. Caucasian, 26, atheist, starting last year of medical school, known to have homosexual tendencies, good health, and wears “freaky” clothes.
10. Mrs. Clark. Caucasian, 26, Protestant, college graduate in electrical engineering, married, no children, good health, enjoys outdoor sports, and grew up in the inner-city.
11. Sister Mary Kathleen. A Caucasian Nun, 35, college graduate, English major, middle-class American, and in good health.
12. Mr. Black. Caucasian, 51, Mormon, high school graduate, mechanic, “Mr. Fix-it,” married, and in good health.
13. Miss Harris, Hispanic, 21, Protestant, college senior, nursing major, likes people, good health, and enjoys outdoor sports.
14. Father Flanagan. African-American, 37, Catholic, college, seminary experience, priest, active in civil rights activities, criticized for his liberal views, good health, and a former college athlete.
15. Dr. Lee. Asian-American, 66, MD, general practitioner, has had two heart attacks in the past 5 years but continues to practice medicine.