



Module: ENGAGE CREATIVE YOUNG PEOPLE Unit 7: Communication

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THE NAME GAME

Activity Communication Skills

This is a fun exercise that shows the importance of asking the right type of questions. Split the group into pairs and give them the post its.

Instruct each participant to think of a famous person and write it secretly on a post it and then attach the post it to the head of their partner.

In round 1 – take it in turns to ask closed (yes/no) questions. You may continue to ask questions for as long as you receive a yes response. When the answer is no, swap over. E.g. typical questions: Am I alive? Am I male? Am I a sports person etc.?

In round 2 - Ask participants to come up with another famous person and repeat the exercise, but now they must take it in turns to ask one open question or TED (Tell, Explain, Describe) question (with the exception of 'what is my name or similar!'). If they mistakenly ask a closed question they have lost their turn.

Discussion questions :

- Which were the easier questions to think of? (*normally round 1*)
- Which questions made it easier to guess who I was? (*definitely round 2*)

What's the point from this activity? The Key message from this activity is that despite the obvious usefulness of Open/TED questions (Tell, Explain, Describe questions) for gathering information we for some reason find it easier to ask closed questions so as much as we think we asked the right questions!

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