

The Communication Game

No Student Worksheet Needed for this Activity

Soft-Skill Activity: The Communication Game

Here is an active learning exercise that will both energize your students and help them realize the importance of clear communications.

- **Explain** to students that they are going to do a short, easy activity using a single sheet of paper...which you are distributing to them. (8 1/2" X 11")
- Tell them there are **two rules** for this activity- they are going to do it with their eyes closed, and they can't ask any questions...so they will need to listen carefully.
- Instruct students to **close their eyes**, and then **give the following instructions:**



- Fold your paper in half.
 - Tear off the upper right hand corner.
 - Fold your paper in half again.
 - Tear off the lower left-hand corner.
 - Fold your paper in half again.
 - Tear off the lower right hand corner.
- Before they open their eyes, ask them to **raise their hands** if they did not understand the simple directions you gave them. (Most people think they followed the directions, so probably only one or two will raise their hands.) Then say something like, *Good most everyone got it!*
 - Have students open their eyes and **compare** their paper with the person sitting next to them. Ask, *Are your papers identical? If so, please stand up.* (Chances are no ones will be alike.)
 - **Debrief** the activity by asking a few questions to get students thinking about what happened.
 - Why don't all the papers look the same?
 - What was missing from the communication?
 - What is one thing you learned from this activity that you can apply in your life immediately?

They have cell phones, BlackBerries, and Palm Pilots and live by instant messaging and the Internet. Yet many college students get bad grades from employers for their communications skills.