

BLIND POLYGON

Objective:

- To understand how ideas are initiated in a group
- To realize how difficult it can be to get an idea out to a group
- To challenge assertion skills
- To question consensus achieving abilities
- To explore gender communication differences

Group Size:

Groups of 8 - 16

Materials:

- Long (20 – 50 ft) rope
- Blindfolds for every person

Set – Up:

- The team forms a circle with arms outstretched, drops hands and sits down.
- Team members put blindfolds on.
- Facilitator places the rope in the middle of the circle.

Instructions:

1. The group is instructed to form perfect square with each team member holding on to the rope.
2. No team member can let go of the rope.
3. When group members feel the task is completed, they can take off the blindfolds to check the results.

Alternatives:

1. Can mute people randomly.
2. You can then ask for a triangle or other shapes.
3. You can give members time to come up with a plan before putting on blindfolds, then after blindfolds are in place, members may not speak or use verbal signals.
4. To address gender communication, mute the women and then mute the men.

Process Questions

Are you happy with the outcome? Did you really complete the task?

How were ideas interjected into the group?

Was everyone who had an idea heard by the entire group? If yes, how was that accomplished?

If no, why not?

What does it take to be heard in a group?

Was anyone's idea rejected right off?

How clearly were the ideas presented?

How important was it for the group to reach consensus?

Are you proud of the result?

What happened when people were muted? What was different when the men were muted?

What was different when the women were muted?

What would you do differently in your next attempt?