

SILENT OPERA

Objective:

To allow for observation of team interaction while exploring communication skills, cooperation, planning and having fun.

Group Size:

Groups of 8 to 12

Materials:

1 Blindfold

12 foot piece of rope

Assorted objects:

e.g.: orange cones, rubber rings, various balls, a bucket

Instructions:

1. Select one volunteer to be blindfolded and one volunteer to give instructions.
2. Instruct the remaining members that they are to be muted.
3. Set up the room according to the diagram below and position participants.
4. Inform the group that the blindfolded member can speak, but will need to be told what to do in order to accomplish a given task.
5. The person in the middle can only look at the large group but must tell the blindfolded member what to do.
6. The large group will know the task and must communicate that to the middle person without speaking and without crossing the barrier represented by the rope.
7. Inform the large group the task that the group is to accomplish (the more specific the task, the more challenging).
8. Have them begin.
9. If time permits, allow participants to change roles.

Processing Questions:

1. Ask the various individuals to describe their experience.
2. What worked in the process? What hindered the process?
3. How did you decide on the strategy you used?
4. What role did you personally play in the exercise?
5. What critical elements in communication emerged?
6. Why is this essential as we work in teams?
7. What metaphors can you think of that this exercise may represent?

Set up:

Assorted Objects:



X

(blindfolded volunteer – can talk)

↑
12 ft
↓

X

(can talk & see, but can only look at group)

↑
12 ft
↓

rope

X X X X X X
(can see but cannot talk)