

Communication Ice Breaker

Item	Description
Objective:	This is an ice breaker designed as a prelude to training relating to the importance of clear communications.
Materials Needed:	Blank letter size paper; Scissors optional.
Total Time for Activity:	15 minutes* (*Activity times are highly dependent on class size and dynamics. The time given is approximate. This activity creates a spirited discussion; you may need to limit discussion to meet time constraints.)
Set-Up:	None

Step:	Preceptor Instructions:	Activity Time:
1.	Ask the participants to pick up the sheet of paper and hold it in front of them. Ask them to follow the directions you give them exactly. <i>Allow no questions.</i>	1 min.
2.	Instruct the participants to look only at their own paper, or to close their eyes if they cannot resist looking!	1 min.
3.	Give the following instructions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Fold your sheet of paper in half. b. Tear or cut off the upper right-hand corner. c. Fold it in half again and tear or cut off the upper left hand corner of the sheet. d. Fold it in half again. Now tear or cut off the lower right-hand corner of the sheet 	7 min.
4.	Instruct participants to hold up their sheets and look around the room.	1 min.
5.	Debrief the participants regarding the differences in results and the reasons why.	5 min.

Possible answers include lack of clear instructions, different ways to interpret instructions, and the inability to ask questions or clarify.

Use this as a segue to your presentation. For example, “Communicating clearly can be a real challenge. This is especially true when documenting findings on the 2567.”