

Materials: A deck of face cards and a large open space

Instructions: Tell participants that this is a non-verbal activity. Pass out cards face side down, reminding participants to not look at their cards. When everyone has a card, have the group put their cards on their foreheads (without looking at them) with the value facing out so others can see it. Without using verbal cues, participants should treat each other based on the value of their card. For example, if a person has a high value card, you may want to bow. If a person has a low value card, you might want to snub them. Let the group mingle for three to five minutes. (For a large group, you might to add a few extra minutes.)



After a few minutes of quiet mingling, have the participants form groups based on what they think is the value of their card. High cards on one side, low cards on the other, and middle cards in the middle.

Once each group is formed, participants may look at their cards. Debrief with the questions below:

- How did you know if you were a high, low or middle card?
- How did you treat high cards? Low cards? Middle cards?
- Who decided which cards are more valuable than others?
- How about aces? Are they high cards or low cards? How were they treated?
- How does this activity relate to how we communicate in everyday life?
- How do we treat people that we do not know how to value?

Notes: For smaller groups, you may have to choose the cards, rather than hand out cards at random, to be sure that there is a good mix of high, low and middle cards. Always be sure to include at least one ace. Also remember, there is no right or wrong way to answer. It is important for participants to look at how they actually reacted, rather than at how they think they should have reacted or will react in the future. If someone doesn't want to participate, ask them to observe the group and share their observations during the debrief.