

Diversity Activities

Choosing Sides

Objectives

1. To describe the strengths and weaknesses of working with individuals like ourselves and individuals different from ourselves.
2. To recognize that consciously choosing a team can lead to more creative, more productive results.

Time

15 minutes

Materials

- Paper
- Pens or pencils

Instructions

1. Identify a facilitator for the discussion.
 2. Read the two scenarios.
 3. Read the questions aloud and have participants write down their responses
 4. Discuss answers.
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1. You have the opportunity to work with a group of individuals who are exactly like you in every way. These clones look like you, dress like you, and talk like you. They have the same likes and dislikes, the same skills and abilities as you. They share the same interests and ideas, the same strengths and weaknesses.
 2. Your other choice is to work with a group of people completely different from you. They come from different backgrounds, look different, and behave differently. They use different expressions and idioms and have different hobbies, skills, and ideas.

For Discussion

1. Which group would you choose to work with?
2. Why would you choose that group?
3. Which group will likely be most productive?
4. Which group will probably have more conflict and disagreement?
5. Which group will probably be more fun?
6. Which group will most likely come up with the most ideas? The most creative ideas?
7. Which group would be more comfortable to work with?

Variation

Divide into two groups. Have each group discuss the benefits and limitations of one of the scenarios. After several minutes, join together and have each group share their ideas. Discuss the questions above together.