



BOARD MEETING

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Description: Oh, the joys of meetings! This activity aims at highlighting counter-productive behavior in meetings by introducing a fun mock meeting. It could be used in a variety of ways: as a warm-up exercise, a stereotype debunker or as a means to highlight some of the communication challenges in meetings.

Objective: Identify communication barriers that occur when conducting meetings

Audience: Any audience

Time: 45 minutes

Group Size: 8-15 people

Materials: One copy of the Board Meeting Game Card Template cut apart

- Process:**
1. Explain to the group that they are going to conduct a mock board meeting. Issue one game card to each person. Each person is to act out this role during the board meeting regardless of how they really feel.
 2. Appoint a chairperson who needs to bring the meeting to order and instruct the group that this is a special board meeting to discuss the introduction of vending machines to the office lunchrooms. They are to discuss their preference for the type of vending machines (e.g. drinks, snacks, both, etc.) and a decision has to be reached in 15 minutes.

Debrief: Debrief this activity by getting the participants to identify some of the counter-productive behaviors exhibited and discuss strategies for overcoming these in meetings. As an extension, the trainer could ask the participants how they felt during the meeting (especially the chairman). It will be important to ensure that the participants recognize that they were playing an assigned role and the actions and behaviors were not real.

Variations: As a bit of fun, the trainer could get the participants to try to guess the identities of the other members at the end.



The Board Meeting - Game Card Template

<p>1. THE CHAIRPERSON</p> <p>You are the chairman of the board, and your job is to bring the meeting to order and ensure the key issue is discussed.</p>	<p>2. THE COMPLAINER</p> <p>You complain about everything. Nothing is working for you.</p>	<p>3. DR. SMITH</p> <p>(from Lost in Space)</p> <p>You are the worrier of the group: "Oh the pain, the pain." You wonder what could go wrong.</p>
<p>4. THE AGGRESSOR</p> <p>You want everything your way. You will shout over others and try to intimidate them.</p>	<p>5. THE FIDGETER</p> <p>You find it difficult to stay still and play with everything - pens, paper, your hair, clothes, etc.</p>	<p>6. THE JOKER</p> <p>Everything is funny to you; it's "a crack a minute" time for you!</p>
<p>7. THE SHY TYPE</p> <p>You are reserved and don't say much. You might even withdraw yourself from some discussions.</p>	<p>8. THE DRINKER</p> <p>You need to be drinking something all the time. You get coffee or tea regularly.</p>	<p>9. THE PIG</p> <p>You are rude, often chauvinistic and mean. You try to offend as many people as you can!</p>
<p>10. THE FORMER CHAIRPERSON</p> <p>You were voted out recently and are still bitter. You want to make life tough for the new chairman.</p>	<p>11. THE HEALTH NUT</p> <p>You are against fatty foods and non-healthy food being introduced. In fact you would rather call this a "lentil-ing" rather than a "meat-ing."</p>	<p>12. THE DISTRACTOR</p> <p>You think meetings are boring and try to take the group off track as much as possible.</p>
<p>13. THE DEVIL'S ADVOCATE</p> <p>You are always looking at the other side thinking, "What if?"</p>	<p>14. THE STUD/BABE</p> <p>You are a Latin god/goddess. You are beautiful, and you know it. You speak English with a Spanish accent.</p>	<p>15. THE MEDIATOR</p> <p>You are a concerned and sensitive kind of person. You are always looking to attain a win-win situation.</p>