

Hand Clapping

Source: *Communication Highwire - Leveraging the Power of Diverse Communication Styles* (2005), by Dianne Hofner Saphiere, Barbara Kappler Mikk, and Basma Ibrahim Devries, Intercultural Press: Yarmouth, Maine.

In this fun and energizing exercise, participants are asked to do a simple hand clapping exercise in pairs, then to add a third and then a fourth person to their groups. In each case, participants must figure out how to adjust to the new situation and include the other participants.

During the debriefing, participants are asked to discuss their experiences and how they handled the situation. Facilitators can tie their discussion to differences in and appreciation of different communication styles.

Topics that this exercise deals with include the need to use new communication strategies, cultural bridging, and managing change and uncertainty.

Complete directions for this exercise are found on pages 239-241 of *Communication Highwire* by Dianne Hofner Saphiere, Barbara Kappler Mikk, and Basma Ibrahim Devries.

Described by Alice Wu