

INTERCULTURAL ACTIVITY: ORAL FORM

From a variety of sources. Adapted by Darla K. Deardorff, 2007.

Purpose: To demonstrate oral difficulties in communication. To create a sense of discomfort when confronted with difference.

Time: 10-15 minutes

Group Size: Any size – works especially well with large groups.

Instructions: Have participants gather a pen and blank paper. With no introduction, tell the group, "Okay, we're going to start today by having you answer a few questions on the sheet of paper in front of you, please follow my instructions." With no more introduction, ask participants to do the following:

- 1) Please write your *pangalan* (name) at the top right hand of the corner.
(If they ask for clarification, refuse to do so. You can repeat the instruction, however.)
- 2) Please write if you have an *asawa* (spouse) on the right side.
- 3) Write the number of *bansa* (country) you have lived in *sa kaliwang tabi* (left hand side).
- 4) Write your *inang bansa* (mother land) near the *gitna* (center).
- 5) Indicate how large your *angkan* (clan) is at the bottom.

Note: The above instructions utilize Tagalog. You can substitute another language if you wish.

Debrief:

- a) How many completed the instructions?
- b) Were there any difficulties? Why?
- c) How did you feel about your ability to function without understanding what was said?
- d) What does this exercise say about the communication process? About ourselves as listeners?
- e) What does this exercise say about not being able to understand? About being in new cultural situations?
- f) What insights can you gain from this activity? What implications are there for us in our work?
- g) What does this activity tell us about how the communication process can be improved?

Summary: This activity works well in sensitizing participants to how they may react in challenging intercultural communication situations. It can serve as a diagnostic about attitude (ie some persons may demonstrate frustration, hostility, willingness to take risks, refusal to participate, etc.). This also works well to give participants a taste of what persons may encounter in another culture.