

Ambassador's Game Simulation Lesson

Rational:

- This activity is an effective means to introduce and learn about more complex issues in such a way as to not offend or create discomfort for participants.
- This activity deals with a focus on cultural differences and the necessary skills for interacting with those who are "different" from us.
- To provide a non-threatening opportunity to experience the feelings of being involved with people who are culturally different.

Materials: Canadian diplomat and foreign ambassador profiles.

Procedure: 1. Briefing

- A) The teacher introduces the simulation and purpose of the exercise "The game consists of a coffee party for Canadian diplomats and foreign ambassadors." (Canadian diplomat and foreign ambassador profiles at the bottom of the lesson).
- B) Divide the class into two equal groups and give one group the ambassadors' roles and the other group the Canadian diplomats' scenario. Separate the groups.
- C) Give the ambassador's their profile cards and answer any questions that they may have about their roles. Suggest that they try out their nonverbal behavior before meeting with the diplomats.
- D) Advise the diplomats that they are eagerly awaiting the arrival of the foreign ambassadors.

2. Action

- A) When both groups are ready, hold the "coffee party".

3. Debriefing

A) Ask the students the following questions in a class discussion:

WHAT did we just do?

WHAT did you feel when you met the ambassadors? Why?

SO WHAT did it mean to you personally?

SO WHAT did it do to your comfort level?

NOW WHAT will you do with what you just learned?

NOW WHAT will you do to try and help others?

- Focus on the feelings of the diplomats. What was their response to the ambassadors? Why?
- Focus on the ambassadors. What were the changes in the diplomats' behavior toward them? What might we learn about these changes as they relate to culture?

ROLES

CANADIAN DIPLOMATS

You are a member of the Canadian diplomatic corps. Your task is to attend a coffee party for five foreign ambassadors, recently arrived in Canada. The purpose of this party is to make them feel welcome in Ottawa.

With the other Canadian diplomats, decide on who will be responsible for meeting each ambassador (the countries represented are Valdestra, Zhabori, Syrabia, Montza, Lonivia).

What kinds of questions would you ask, and what kind of information would you offer about Canada to make the guests feel at ease?

FOREIGN AMBASSADORS

Each Ambassador has a unique quality that represents his/her country.

Zhabori

In your country, it is considered very impolite to look directly at the person with whom you are speaking. Therefore, your eyes will always be on the ceiling, or the floor - never directly focused on another person.

You have just arrived in Ottawa, and will shortly be attending a diplomatic

function. You will be trying to be very polite.

Valdesta

In your country, it is natural to stand very close to the person you are speaking with. The closer you are, the more comfortable you feel.

You have just arrived in Ottawa, and will shortly be attending a diplomatic function. You will obviously be trying to make yourself feel as comfortable as possible.

Montza

For people from Montza, an outgoing and friendly person speaks loudly, using hand gestures a great deal.

You have just arrived in Ottawa, and will shortly be attending a diplomatic function. You will be especially friendly.

Lavivia

Lavivians value "touching" a great deal. People who are just meeting for the first time usually hold hands for a few minutes to express their pleasure in meeting each other. Also, conversations among Lavivians include a great deal of touching.

You have just arrived in Ottawa, and will shortly be attending a diplomatic function. You wish to express your pleasure at being in their country.

Syrabia

In your country, it is a sign of respect to consider another person's words very carefully. Thus, you never respond immediately when someone speaks to you. Usually you wait 10 seconds before replying.

You have just arrived in Ottawa, and will shortly be attending a diplomatic function. You will be trying to show a great deal of respect for the Canadians you meet.