

ISOLATION

Objective

This activity was designed to allow students to experience the isolation sometimes felt by people in wheelchairs.

Materials

- Timer
- Discussion starters written on index cards
- 1 wheelchair (a regular chair will do as a substitute)

Teacher Preparation

Move the classroom desks back leaving a circle in the center of the room. Place the wheelchair or a single chair in the center.

Write some discussion starters on the index cards. Some suggestions:

1. What is your favorite food?
2. What is your favorite subject?
3. What do you like to do on weekends?
4. What is your favorite television program? Movie?
5. What is your favorite kind of pet?

Activity

1. Divide the class into small groups of 5 or 6 students each.
2. Have one group at a time come into the middle of the room. Ask one student to select a discussion starter card.
3. Have one student sit in the wheelchair (or chair) and the other students stand around the chair.
4. Explain that the one sitting in the chair will experience the isolation sometimes experienced by a person in a wheelchair when they are in a group of people who are all standing.
5. Set the timer for 3 or 4 minutes and have the standing students talk about the selected subject
6. When the timer goes off, allow another group to come into the center of the class and participate in the same activity.

