

Blind Tic-Tac-Toe

Participants try to win a game of Tic-Tac-Toe while blindfolded

TIME
10-20 minutes

MATERIALS
Polyspots/tape/chalk/etc.

TEAM STAGE
Forming, Norming

Learning & Development Outcomes

Participants will work together to accomplish a task in an ambiguous environment. The activity will require flexibility and a willingness to both lead and be led by others in order to adapt to changing needs.

Outcomes are focused on developing *21st Century Skills* and the *National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) Career Competencies*, including, but not limited to:

- Working effectively in a climate of ambiguity and changing priorities.
- Using interpersonal and problem-solving skills to influence and guide others toward a goal.
- Motivating and inspiring others by encouraging them and by building mutual trust.
- Being accountable for individual and team responsibilities and deliverables..

Preparation & Logistics



Set Up

- Create a 3x3 grid on the ground using polyspots, tape, chalk, or any other materials that are readily available.

Safety

- Participants will be moving across the space while blindfolded. Keep an eye on participants and be prepared to stop or redirect them if they are getting too close to bumping into another participant or an outside object.

Additional Considerations

- Set aside additional time for a debrief.
- [\[Click here to watch it live!\]](#)

Instructions

Summary

Participants will work together to help their blindfolded teammates navigate across a Tic-Tac-Toe board.

This activity is appropriate for all ages.

Step 1: Choose participants to blindfold

- Choose three participants who are comfortable being blindfolded and have them put on a blindfold.
- Have the blindfolded participants stand on one side of the grid and the rest of the participants stand on the other side.

Step 2: Try to get three in a row

- Have the non-blindfolded participants give verbal directions to the blindfolded participants about where to move.
- The goal is to get the blindfolded participants to form a line of three in a row in the grid. The line could be in any direction - vertical, horizontal, or diagonal.

Step 3: Repeat with new participants

- Once the blindfolded participants are in a row, have them take off their blindfolds and pick new participants to be blindfolded.
- Repeat Step 2 with the new participants.
- For the second round, the line of three in a row must be in a different direction (for example, if the first group lined up horizontally, the next group must either line up vertically or diagonally).

How to end the activity

- The activity is over once every participant has had a chance to be blindfolded.



Is this a timed activity?

"This activity is not inherently a timed activity, although you can time the group and have them go through the activity multiple times to try and improve their time."



As participants rotate between Steps 2 and 3, you can pause them and give them a few minutes to strategize and come up with the best way to accomplish their goal.

Debrief Questions



These questions are a starting point to guide your debrief. Pick the ones that best match your group's experience and add or change questions as needed!

What

- What was hard about this activity? What was easy?
- What strategies did your group use to accomplish the goal?

So What

- Why is it important to be able to both give and follow directions?
- What is the benefit of working in coordination with a group?

Now What

- What other activities require you to give and follow directions in your group?
- How can you ensure that your group continues to work in coordination with each other?

Adjustments for...

Large Group (25+)

- Create multiple grids and have smaller groups go through the activity simultaneously.

Risk Level

- For a higher risk level, split the group into two teams and have each team blindfold 3 participants. Then, have the teams compete to be the first to get their participants lined up in a row.

Group has prior experience

- After participants are blindfolded, tell one or two participants which direction the blindfolded participants need to line up in - horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. They may not tell the rest of the group what the required direction is, but must ensure that the goal is met.

Online

- Create a grid and 3 playing pieces using shapes on a shared document. Have each of the "blindfolded" participants select one of the playing pieces, put their fingers on their keyboard's arrow keys, and then close their eyes. Have the other participants direct them where to move their playing pieces while they use the arrow keys to move the playing pieces into the grid.



Each adjustment is its own unique idea for how to facilitate this activity for different groups and situations! Choose any or all that work!