

Partner Drawing

Participants work together to recreate a drawing while one of them is blindfolded

TIME
20-30 minutes

MATERIALS
Paper, writing utensils, prepared image, blindfolds

TEAM STAGE
Storming,
Norming, Performing

Learning & Development Outcomes

Participants will practice communicating and listening. They will be challenged to utilize verbal communication to instruct others to complete a task.

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

- Leveraging strengths of others to accomplish a common goal.
- Solving different kinds of non-familiar problems in both conventional and innovative ways.
- Being accountable for individual and team responsibilities and deliverables.
- Demonstrating dependability.



Preparation & Logistics

Set Up

- Prepare an image for participants to explain/draw.
- Set up the space so that participants can sit in pairs with one partner able to see the prepared image and the other partner unable to see it.

Safety

- Assure participants that there no "failure" in this activity. It is understandable, and even expected, that their drawings will not look exactly like the prepared drawing. This does not mean that they failed at the activity.
- Insure that participants are comfortable being blindfolded before they take on the drawer role. If they are not comfortable being blindfolded, they should be the explainer and not the drawer.

Additional Considerations

- Set aside additional time for a debrief.

Instructions

Summary

Participants will work in pairs to recreate a drawing while one of them is blindfolded.

To adjust this activity for younger participants, choose an easier image to draw and recreate. For older participants, choose a more complex image.

Step 1: Share the rules

- Have each participant sit close to their partner.
- Ask one partner (the drawer) to put on a blindfold. Then show the other partner (the explainer) the prepared image.
- Tell the drawers that they may not take off their blindfold during the activity.
- Only the drawer can draw on the paper. The explainer can only give instructions to the drawer.
- The goal of the participants is to correctly replicate the prepared image.

Step 2: Recreate the prepared image

- Allow time for the explainers to give instructions to the drawers and for the drawers to draw.

How to end the activity

- The activity continues until a designated time has run out or all participants feel they have finished.
- Once the activity has concluded, allow participants to share what they drew and compare it to the prepared image.



Can the explainer hold or guide the drawer's hand?

"The only time the explainer may touch the drawer's hand is if the drawer has lost track of the paper and needs to be redirected back to it."



Depending on the room arrangement and the number of participants, you can have each pair work to recreate the same image, or you can give each pair their own image to recreate. Do whatever is best for your group.

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 easy/difficult for the explainers?
- What was easy/difficult for the drawers?

So What

- What did you learn about how you communicate in this activity?
- What did you learn from others in this activity?

Now What

- What will you continue to do in your communication/listening?
- What will you change or adjust about your communication/listening?

Adjustments for...

Large Group (25+)

- Consider using a screen to project the prepared image so multiple participants can view it more easily.

Medium Group (10-25)

- Prepare two images so that each participant can perform both roles in the pair.

Small Group (1-9)

- Prepare two images so that each participant can perform both roles in the pair.

Risk Level

- To increase the risk level, prepare a very abstract image that is difficult to explain.

Group has prior experience

- Allow participants to create their own image for their partners to draw.

Online

- Send the prepared image to each explainer. Then, put each pair in a breakout room and give them a dedicated amount of time to explain/draw. Have the drawer share their screen with a digital whiteboard application open and then close their eyes. Have the explainer tell the drawer where to move their cursor and when to click and draw on the digital whiteboard.



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