

## Diversity Card Game

### Materials:

- A deck of playing cards and tape
  - Divide the cards into an equal number of face cards (Kings, Queens, Jacks), middle cards (6 & 7's), and low cards (2's & 3's). (E.g. if there are 6 players, you'll need two face cards, two 7's and two 2's).

### Instructions:

1. Hang up the Big 8+ poster/show the PowerPoint Slide. For this activity, review the content after the activity.
2. Start by taping a playing card to each participants' forehead without them seeing the card.
  - Participants will have it taped on their foreheads so that when they are walking around, everyone can see what card they have except them.
3. Explain to everyone that as we all walk around we will treat people according to the value of their cards, higher valued cards such as K,Q,J, are treated very well, lower valued cards, such as 2 & 3, are treated poorly, and 6 & 7's are simply tolerated or treated neutrally.
  - Make it very clear that there is to be no touching and no speaking during this activity and that they must keep moving around the room.
  - Demonstrate how they might react to each other as an example (i.e. like royalty – bowing; low number – not making eye contact at all or making a mean face).
  - Ask everyone to mingle as if they were at a party for a few minutes, (approx. 2-4 mins.) treating everyone according to their card.
4. After they have mingled for a while,
  - Ask people who thinks they have a J or higher to stand by one wall.
  - Ask those who think they have a 3 or lower to stand by another wall.
  - Ask those who have 6-7 to stand by another wall.
  - Tell them that it's amazing how accurately people can usually tell what card is on their forehead and let them know they can look at their own card now.
5. After sorting everyone by their values, have the group come together to discuss the activity. Ask the questions below to facilitate the discussion:
  - Does this activity reflect the real world at all? How?
  - How did the J-K feel? The 6-7? The 2-3?
  - Do you think the way you're treated impacts your self-esteem? How?
  - Who is treated poorly?

- Who is treated well in society?
- Why are some people treated badly in real life?
- Why are others treated like “royalty”?
- What values does society try to impose on us?
- How are people who live in poverty treated? Why?
- Do you think sometimes people think that they are a middle card, but are actually a high card? (Hint: you may want to talk about privilege here, and how people can’t always see that they are treated better than others because it feels “normal” to them)
- End the discussion with recognizing our status in the real world, based on our poster. If we recognize our privilege or high card status, do we need to feel guilty or become an ally for others and recognize injustice?
- Ask them to take a look around the room and make eye contact with each other, reminding themselves that they are all different but all equal and all of high value.
- Ask them to try and remember this in their day-to-day interactions. We’re all just people trying to get by.
- To end the activity, have all participants write a sticky note that says “I am of high value” and stick it on their forehead.
- When they take it off their forehead, tell them to put it on their heart, so they can remember that feeling of high value is also important internally.

6. You can repeat this activity many times. If the facilitator notices that some mentees are consistently getting low cards, they may want to move from random selection to handing cards out so that all mentees have the experience of both high and low cards.

This activity has been adapted / rewritten for Campus Connections Therapeutic Mentoring Program and for use in this training. Retrieved from [http://teentalk.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Diversity-Card-Game\\_TeenTalk-2012.pd](http://teentalk.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Diversity-Card-Game_TeenTalk-2012.pd)

