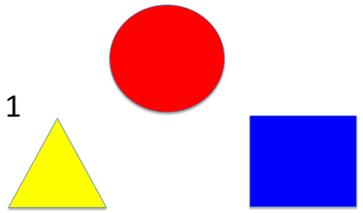


Star Power: An Experiential Learning Exercise to Foster Ecological Perspectives on Power, Privilege, and Oppression



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Star Power Simulation Rounds

What is Star Power?

Star Power is a representative simulation of distinct groups in society that hold differential amounts of social power. The simulation involves trading chips with others to obtain the highest score.

Purpose of Star Power

1. To increase students' understanding of oppression and privilege using an ecological perspective
2. To help students reflect on their own identity status in the larger social world

When to Use

- ✓ Prior group rapport is strongly suggested
- ✓ Suggested class size is between 18 and 35 students
- ✓ Can be facilitated in multiple environments such as classrooms and community-based organizations
- ✓ Students should have basic or introductory knowledge of power, privilege, and/or oppression



Prep

Remove all tables. Create three circles that are similar in size with ample space for students to walk around the room. Hang Star Power posters in an easy to see location and prepare white board for scoring. Students blindly pull chips as they enter into the classroom, and are instructed to keep their chips hidden.



Round 1

Students trade with one another and report final score on whiteboard. Students are assigned a group (triangle, circle or square) based on score and sit in their respective circles. Main facilitator conducts bonus round, while scorekeeper performs inflation. Facilitator make announcements of those who moved up or down among groups.



Round 2

All chips are redistributed into three separate bags. Squares pull from bag with most desirable chips. Trading round begins and is similar to round 1. After trading round, facilitators announce changes in rule making. All groups deliberate about rules for next trading rounds. Squares announce next trading rules.



Round 3

A new round begins with the new trading rules. Game can end after third round, or continue for another round. The facilitator announces the person with highest score to the group as the winner. Set up room for small and large group discussion.

Facilitator Tips

- ✓ Use three facilitators (main facilitator, timekeeper, & scorer,)
- ✓ Perform inflation often to ensure the squares consistently make up 10% of the entire group
- ✓ Use encouragers and discouragers throughout the simulation to evoke emotions around status-justifying ideologies
- ✓ Use small and large group discussion after the simulation

Discussion Questions

1. How does Star Power mirror what occurs in the real world?
2. What was the easiest thing about being in the triangle, circle, or square group? What was the most difficult?
3. If you were able to move up or down between groups, what influenced your movement? If you never moved to any group, what do you think influenced your lack of movement?
4. How has oppression played a role in your life, both as a member of a marginalized group(s), and or as a member of privileged group(s)?