

*Title of Lesson:* How Do You Institute Change?

*Curriculum Unit:* Communication

*Objective:*

- To use appropriate language and style based on the audience being addressed
- To identify and understand nonverbal cues
- To develop effective interpersonal communication

*Materials:*

- deck of cards
- paper and writing materials
- prompt question on board or projection screen (see below)

*Directions:*

1. Write a prompt question on the board that would be something of interest to students, perhaps a controversial issue in your community. For example, “How do we communicate the need to administrators, teachers, students, and community members to bring back the Homecoming dance?”
2. As students walk into class, have each student draw a card from the deck.
3. Assign each suit a specific role associated with the prompt. For example, hearts = teachers, spades = students, diamonds = administrators, clubs = community members.
4. In their groups, students answer the prompt on the board according to the directive of the suit they have. Allow five minutes for individual work, then group students according to suit.
5. Brainstorm/share responses within the group. Have students develop a one-minute speech targeted to the specific group they have been assigned to sell the idea given in the prompt. They should consider what type of language is appropriate for their target audience (formal, informal, social) and what type of media or form of communication should be used.
6. Have each group present its one-minute speech.

*Sample Processing Questions:*

- What did you observe about the presentations?
- Did you notice any differences in the style of presentation or language used?

- Should people adapt their language to the type of group they are addressing? Why or why not?
- What difference does it make if you use a formal style in an informal setting or vice versa?
- What are some situations in real life where you have consciously adapted your communication style?

Created by leadership class teachers at the second TASSP/TASC Student Leadership Course Teacher Academy, July 2010