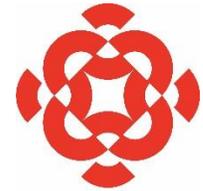


LENS Project

Why Were You Late?



**TACOMA
ARTS LIVE**

Ages All Ages!

LENS Skill Negotiation

Why? Working toward a shared goal and taking turns with a partner helps me practice my **Negotiation** skills, including the ability to give and take, as well as to trust those around me.

Materials None

Vocabulary Improvisation (or Improv): form of live theatre in which the plot, characters and dialogue of a game, scene or story are made up in the moment.



Summary

In this improvisation game, participants will take turns telling a story one word at a time to practice their **Negotiation** skill of collaborating toward a shared goal. Each person will need to build upon the ideas of their partner and trust each other to work together toward the goal.

Directions

1.) Establish Understanding

Discuss the concept of improvisation. Improvisation means saying the first thing that comes to your mind, thinking on your feet, and not preplanning what you're going to say or do. When improvising with others it's important to "make offers" which means contributing ideas and suggestions. It's also important to "say yes" or accept the ideas and suggestions ("offers") of others. This activity uses improvisation skills to focus on taking turns, listening and building on another's ideas.

2.) Improvise

Working with a partner, answer the question "Why were you late?" You and your partner must answer the question by creating a story told one word at a time, taking turns back and forth. Your goal is to answer the question in a way that makes sense without going on unnecessarily long. You and your partner will not have any time to plan, but will improvise your response by building on each other's ideas in the moment.

- If you have enough participants, have one person act as the boss/teacher/parent who asks the question "Why they were late?" That person can also ask follow-up questions that the partners will continue answering back and forth, one word at a time.
- If you have an odd number, you can rotate partners until everyone has had an opportunity to play.



3.) Reflect

Discuss or write your thoughts about the following reflection questions.

- How did it feel to share the responsibility with a partner?
- What strategies did you and your partner use in this activity?
- If you had moments of confusion or uncertainty with your partner, how did you get back on track?

Other ways to Play:

1. Consider playing this game virtually with friends or family members.
2. Consider additional scenarios or questions that you could use with the same response format. (e.g. "What did you do at school today?", "What do you want to do this weekend?", "Describe a dream vacation", etc.)