

Survivor

Purpose: This activity enables participants to explore leadership qualities and characteristics from varying points of view, as well as exposing participants to understanding group dynamics and appreciating the emergence of leadership within a group.

Competencies:

- What is Leadership?
- Ethics and Character
- Leadership and Self
- Leadership and Groups
- Building and fostering diversity

Time: 40 minutes

Materials:

- Blank paper or index cards and a pen/pencil for each participant

How To:

- On a piece of paper, list one quality of leadership [or a characteristic of a leader] that you think is most important in leadership. Take a few moments to reflect on how you might explain the importance of the quality you have chosen.
- Each person then has twenty-five seconds to share their quality and explanation with the group.
- Following the explanations, each group member must vote for a particular quality would best enable someone to be the leader
- Facilitators will take a roll-call vote and tally the results. You must vote for someone other than yourself. No abstaining is allowed.
- The quality receiving with the least amount of votes will be eliminated. In the event of a tie between more than three qualities with the least amount of votes, there will be a run-off vote.
- Repeat the process until you have one remaining “Survivor”

Note: participants who have been ‘voted out’ are still eligible to vote for the remaining/”surviving” qualities. This keeps everyone involved and engaged in the process. It also adds the possibility of a ‘revenge’ dynamic that will be important to explore later.

Wrap Up:

- What does the activity teach us about “competing” for leadership?
- What does the experience of being told that your characteristic or quality of choice was not good enough? How did that make you feel?
- What dynamic emerged within the group as the activity progressed?

- What did you think of those that voted you out? Did it affect the way you voted for them?
- Is there a quality that is better or more valuable than the other?
- Does finding the leader in the group have to be done through a competitive process? Did you think about a different way/approach to finding the 'leader' within the group (or did you just follow the orders/instructions of how to play the game)?
- If we played the game again, what would be different? How would you participate differently?
- How does this affect your idea of participating in a group?