

## Diversity Card Game

### Goal:

- *To discuss discrimination and privilege.*

### Have Ready:

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

### Instructions:

- Tape the card to their forehead.
- Explain that you will give each participant a playing card. They **MUST NOT** look at it!! They will have it taped on their foreheads so that when they are walking around, everyone can see what card they have, except them.
- Explain to everyone that they must 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 very badly 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). When giving out cards try to ***be very cognizant of who you are giving what card to.***
- Then ask the youth to mingle as if they were at a party for a few minutes... (approx. 5 mins)
- After they have mingled for a while (tell them to still not look at their own card!) 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 and 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.



### Debrief:

- 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)

- If we recognize our privilege or high card status, do we need to feel guilty? No and how can we become an ally for others? (See Taking Action Brainstorm on what you can do fight discrimination and to become ally.)
- 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.