
BACK-TO-BACK

SKILLS

- ❖ Working with Others
- ❖ Thinking, Problem-Solving

WHAT IS IT?

This activity encourages teens to work together and to develop clarity in communication and observation. It also promotes active auditory skills. It can be easily transferred into different learning areas.

IMPLICATIONS FOR ROOM LAYOUT

Facilitators might wish to arrange the room in such a way that teens are sitting back-to-back. Alternatively, teens may sit in pairs; although care must be taken that they do not peek at each other's visual!

HOW DOES IT WORK?

1. Teens sit back-to-back with chairs touching, so that teens can hear each other when the activity begins. They must not look over their shoulders at any time.
2. One pupil (pupil A) receives a visual stimulus; the second teen (teen B) receives a piece of paper and pen/pencil.
3. Teen A describes the visual to teen B who must aim to draw it as accurately as possible, taking into account size, shape detail and annotation.
4. Teen B may ask as many questions as necessary, although the facilitator may wish to set an overall time limit for the activity.
5. After the allocated time, teens compare their drawings.
6. Teens might then swap roles.
7. A debrief afterwards might concentrate on the nature of communication within the pairs and why the end product was close to the original, or not, as the case may be.

NCSY EXAMPLES

לשון הרע – comparing the drawings to the stimulus. The idea that perception and hearsay will change authenticity.

מוסורה- things are invariably lost in transmission. Explains why the oral law had to be written down. How important is that it is exact? How things can be interpreted differently?

Need for specificity in mitzvos- When looking at the drawings, notice how the more information the more accurate. The importance of the details of the mitzvos and how to do them e.g. tefillin, is vital to the integrity of the mitzvah.

Body image: Great active way to consider the difference between seeing something as it is and seeing something as described by you. Dove real images video link:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=litXW91UauE>

VARIATIONS

Make groups of 4 or 5.

Have one person from each group describe something and the others draw. Don't allow them to see each other's work.

This can lead to a discussion about how people, when presented with the exact information can interpret it differently.

This could lead to a conversation about **שבעים פנים לתורה**.