

Event 1

My groups' primary outcome for the congress was trust and sense of belonging. During the first session I started with sticky buddies as my energizer. Where participants are taped together back-to-back moving from point A to point B without breaking the masking tape. I explained to participants that this exercise demonstrates trust between partners, because they have to stay aware of each other's every move. I then proceeded into my main event, which was keypunch. In this event we had an uneven amount of people so I stepped in and participated.

During this first session I was feeling very nervous. My introductions seemed to go a little array I became flustered and it showed. The non-verbal reactions I received from my energizer were quite obvious that I may not have chosen an activity with an appropriate challenge. Going into my main event I felt I had to make up for the lack of challenge from my energizer. I feel that I did make up for this until round two of keypunch when I decided to include myself in the event. In the moment it seemed like the right thing to do.

Looking back now I realize that this was a bad call on my part. During this time I should have had my group make due with the uneven number they had, and continued to be withdrawn from the activity to strictly observe. During our group development class any initiative that we started, Liz was always there to watch and she only stepped in for any questions, safety issues, or educational pieces. During this experience my participants were looking to me for an answer, specifically on what to do with an uneven number, which they should have done. My role as a facilitator should have been to have them continue while I observed, but instead my nervousness caught the best of me, and in the moment I answered with inserting myself into the activity.

In conclusion I learned that as a facilitator I should always play the role of an observer. When inserting myself I gave away my role of observer and became a participant at this point I was not able to step in for situations gone array. In this situation in future practices I will always keep myself out of the activity.

Event 2

I feel that my afternoon sessions went a lot smoother than the morning sessions. I changed my energizer so that it was a greater level of challenge and it worked great. Once I received my group I could tell that they were tired from lunch. I could tell by the reactions that my energizer worked. It got everyone involved, smiling, and the mood seemed to lighten. This fact greatly boosted my confidence for the rest of the session. We then moved into the main activity, which was Minefield. Minefield went great there was an even number of participants, and I was able to play my role and facilitate.

During the activity the outcome actually came up, trust. One of the participants actually stated to me that it was hard for them to trust their partner when they couldn't see, and we were able to discuss this situation further with the whole group. The good that came out of this activity was that I was able to play my role of observing, and while doing so the primary outcome came up. Unnoticeable a different pair had finished the minefield and sat down in chairs behind us while discussing trust with the group. It wasn't until I began the debrief that I noticed the pair behind us.

This was the bad experience within that session. As a facilitator I felt I portrayed a bad role of myself to the other members of the group, by not involving the pair sitting behind us. Also I felt bad as a facilitator for not noticing them behind us, and for the fact that I didn't involve them in the conversation. There was an example from our PFL class where the LOD also lost sight of some colleagues in a controlled area, it was brought up in our nightly debrief. At the time I thought to myself how easy it would be to keep sight of everyone and involve the whole group in discussion, but obviously I made the same mistake.

Although this has never happened before I can easily learn from this mistake. In future programs I plan to stay aware of where all participants are and what they are doing. Although good conversation took place, I felt the experience was hindered because not everyone in the group was there.