

PUBLIC OR PRIVATE PEOPLE?¹

Time: 20-40 min.

Age: All

WHAT IS IT?

This exercise helps students will think about public v. private situations when they are dealing with other people.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Students can get a better understanding of the differences between public and private as well as the difficulties in telling them apart.

WHEN IS THIS USEFUL?

When you introduce the concept of public, or when you are talking about the need for the project to be public. It is also a good activity to do in the early team-building stages, to highlight that students have public relationships in PA teams.

MATERIALS: Handout

CORE CONCEPTS: public, private, diversity

SKILLS: critical thinking

BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

Activities / Steps:

- A. Discuss with students the differences between public and private. A good way to lead this discussion is to talk about public or private places.
- B. Have class come up with working definitions of public and private (write on board).
- C. Introduce the idea that students' relationships and interactions with other people can be public or private.
- D. Have students complete worksheet.
- E. Gather to discuss (see reflection)

EVALUATION:

1. What was it like to decide whether your relationships are public or private?
2. Which persons were most difficult to decide? Why?
3. How do you interact with the same person differently when you are in public or in private?

¹ Developed by Melissa Bass, Center for Democracy and Citizenship



Name: _____

Date: _____

PUBLIC OR PRIVATE PERSONS?

Instructions:

1. What is your working definition of public and private?

Public _____

Private _____

2. Using the worksheet, instruct students to list all the people that they come into contact with—everybody and anybody—until they have run out of lines or the lines are filled.

Person	Private	Public	Both

3. For each person you listed, check if you have a private, public or both private and public relationship with (use definitions of public and private to decide).

4. Answer the following questions:
- a. Were you surprised by any of your answers?
 - b. Was it hard to decide sometimes? In which cases was it hardest?
 - c. How often was your answer both?
 - d. In what situations with these people is your relationship public, when is it private?