

Toolbox idea

Canoe game

Session : Problem Solving/Smart Choices

Possible applications: Problem discussion

Materials needed: Canoe game sheet

Instructions: Pass out a canoe game sheet to each participant. Instruct each person to choose for themselves what two items they would choose to keep if put in this situation, and mark them on the paper. Then, instruct them that they are now in the same situation, but they are sharing a canoe with the person attending this class with them. Now they must agree on two items. Give them a few minutes to discuss their options and come to a decision.

If you like, you can go around the room and poll which items were chosen by the different pairs and get a feel for their decision making process.

Key points to process:

Most importantly, this exercise gives you very little detail about the situation. Is it winter or summer? Are you on the Nile or the Illinois? Can you swim?? These are important aspects of the decision making process, but are left inside the imagination of each person and are usually unspoken.

When we're trying to solve a problem as a team, it's crucial to understand the reasons **why** someone has arrived at their point of view before you attempt to find a win-win solution that will suit you both.

You could also work in a preview reference to the values material if you like... in that we all arrive at our opinions for a variety of reasons including beliefs and experiences.