

Activity 2.1.1: The Power of Communication

Introduction

Imagine the world we live in if all forms of communication were lost. In what ways would this loss impact your daily life? The changes are too numerous to count. However, how often do you really even think about communication? It is something we take for granted until the power goes out or our cell phones do not work.

Communication is not only all around us but within us as well. The human body is designed to communicate in hundreds of ways and does so every second we are alive. In this activity you will investigate communication from several perspectives including the cell to cell communication you just used to read this introduction.

In this activity, you will investigate different types of communication and participate in a communication exercise. As you communicate directions to a classmate, pay attention to the detail necessary to accomplish a task and think about the relay of signals that occurs inside your body to produce a correct result.

Equipment

* Computer with Internet access.
* Bag of colored plastic cubes

Procedure

Part I: Communication Exercise

1. Complete the communication exercise under the direction of your teacher.
2. Answer Conclusion questions 1 and 2.

Part II: Group Brainstorm

1. After the teacher assigns you to a team, move your seat so all team members are sitting together in a group. Bring a pen or pencil and the activity handout.
2. Read each question below the heading *Questions for all Teams to Complete*, one at a time, and discuss possible answers with your team members.
3. Record with your team members these answers on your individual activity sheets.
4. Be prepared to explain your team’s answers to the class.
5. When all teams have finished answering the questions, share your findings with the class. Participate in an open class discussion of each question.
6. Add information or ideas to each of your answers as other teams report out. Be sure your own handout sheet is complete at the end of the discussion.
7. Complete the remaining Conclusion question.

### Questions for all Teams to Complete:

* What does the term *communication* mean? Draft a definition with your team.
* The human body is made of a group of systems that function together. Therefore, communication between these systems is crucial. Describe two ways communication occurs within the human body. For each example, brainstorm how the body would be affected if this type of communication could not occur.
* All human body systems are capable of communicating. There is one system; however, that is the master communicator. In fact, this system is capable of communicating with almost every cell in the human body and controls most other body systems in some way. What system do you think fits this description? Explain your reasoning.
* Injury, disease, medical conditions and even the aging process can impact the body’s ability to communicate. Give three examples of specific effects that can occur as the result of a loss of communication within the human body.

Conclusion

1. Describe two reasons why this task may have been difficult to complete successfully.
2. If you could do the same task again, what would you change about the way you gave your partner directions? Explain.
3. Explain how the human senses assist in communication in the body and between individuals.