

Equity and Diversity

PAM 202 Integrated Paramedic Concepts

In this course we began to speak about differences in the presentation of patient conditions and also the background that every patient has. All backgrounds are different. The following exercise was incorporated to stress the recognition of differences in people and topic of PRIVILEGE.

Goal

To help participants recognize the differences among people, as well as the many similarities people share.

Time

3–5 minutes

Materials

Trash can / recycling bin and a scrap piece of paper for every participant.

Procedure

Move the recycling bin to the front of the room.

"The game is simple — you all represent the country's population. And everyone in the country has a chance to become wealthy and move into the upper class. To move into the upper class, all you must do is throw your wadded-up paper into the bin while sitting in your seat."

Everyone took their shots. As expected, most of the students in the front made it (but not all) and only a few students in the back of the room made it.

Discussion

- The students in the back of the room immediately stated, "This is unfair!" They could see the rows of students in front of them had a much better chance.
- The closer you were to the recycling bin, the better your odds. This is what privilege looks like. Did you notice how the only ones who complained about fairness were in the back of the room?
- By contrast, people in the front of the room were less likely to be aware of the privilege they were born into. All they can see is 10 feet between them and their goal.

Findings

The exercise was well received and the stimulated conversation. Your job — as students who are receiving an education — is to be aware of your privilege. And use this particular privilege called "education" to do your best to achieve great things, all the while advocating for those in the rows behind you.