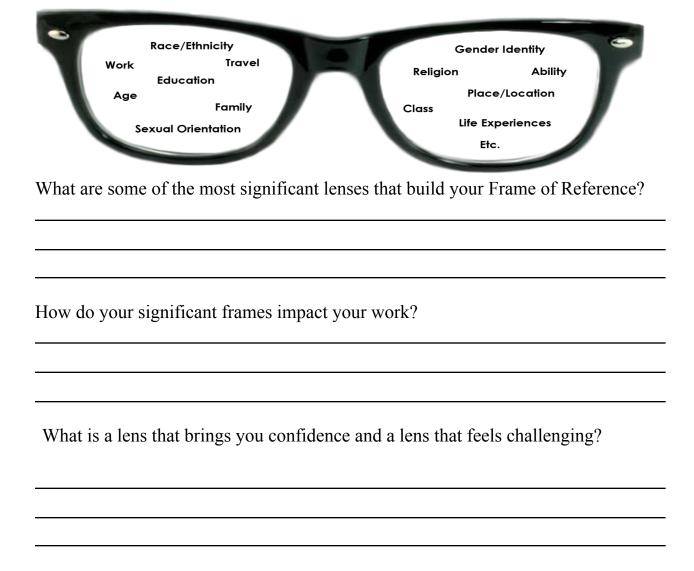


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Creating a more just and inclusive society.

# **Positive Communication Skill Building**

Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology Conference May 4, 2023





## **Positive Communication:**

Decreasing defensiveness to open up the opportunity for productive dialogue.

#### **Prerequisites:** Emotional Intelligence Skills

- Self-Awareness: a basic understanding of how we feel and why we feel that way.
- <u>Self Control:</u> the ability to keep your disruptive emotions and impulses in check to maintain your effectiveness under stressful or even hostile conditions.
  - \* Healthy Outlets for Stress.
- <u>Self Motivation:</u> the ability to drive oneself to take initiative and action to pursue goals and complete tasks.

#### **Notes:**

## **Positive Communication Skill-Building**

**Overall Goal:** Decreasing defensiveness to open up the opportunity for productive dialogue.

- 1) Non-Verbal Communication:
- Interpreting
- Portraying
- Exercise: partner exercise
- Successes; Challenges; Barriers; What ifs and scenarios?
- 2) Listening to Understand (the story from their perspective)
  - Reflective listening and prompts
  - Clarifying questions; specific and open-ended
  - The 'why' question
  - YOU!
  - Hypothesizing
  - Acknowledge contributions
  - Acknowledge the other person's feelings and challenges
    \*\*Acknowledgement and recognition don't necessarily mean
    Agreement\*
- Successes; Challenges; Barriers What ifs and Scenario Dilemmas?
- 3) Speaking to be Understood:
  - Share your viewpoint, experience, feelings, and contributions.
  - Use I statements, respect, and diplomacy.
  - The 'why' question
  - YOU!
  - Acknowledge contributions
  - Acknowledge the other person's feelings and challenges
  - Clear and explicit expectations, needs, and wants
- Successes; Challenges: Barriers, Scenario Dilemmas?

### • STOPPING THE BEHAVIOR:

(separating the person from the behavior and asking for an immediate change in their behavior.)

- 1. Identify the issue/behavior
  - Separate the person from the action
- 2. Articulate the personal impact
  - Use "I" statements
- 3. Ask for what you would like to be different

What works well for me, and when?

**Goals:**