FACILITATION

*Adapted from an activity designed by the Lincoln Filene Center for Citizenship and Public Affairs
Tufts University, Medford, Mass. 1973.*

OBJECTIVE:

Youth will learn the importance of organization and facilitation when trying to accomplish a group task.

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION:

- Butcher paper, tape, and markers.
- Copy and cut out *Murder Mystery Mayhem* clues (Master Copy 1.13).
- Write the four questions that youth need to answer on the board or butcher paper they can be seen (see Section III).
- Optional: Bring in some scary props and some eerie music. Add a tape or chalk outline on the floor. Go the extra mile to get the participants excited about the activity.

I. OPENING: ATTENDANCE, SNACKS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AGENDA OVERVIEW (10 MINUTES)
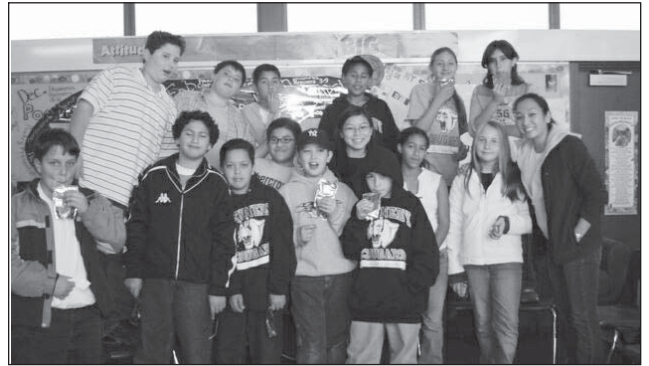Opening Circle Statement (Around the World): If you could know the answer to any one question, what would it be?

II. COMMUNITY BUILDER: CLUSTER GAME (10 MINUTES)

The goal of this activity is to form groups quickly based on different criteria. Speed is not essential, but the activity should proceed at a fairly rapid pace, while still allowing individuals to create groups.

Sample criteria: Ask youth to break into groups of people who have the same eye color; who do the same extra-curricular activities; who have birthdays in the same season (within season group, arrange by birth date); who

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Murder Mystery Mayhem

have the same last digit of their telephone number; have the same favorite sport or movie; who were born in the same state; who have the same number of siblings; who live in the same neighborhood.

III. MURDER MYSTERY MAYHEM (30 MINUTES)

Step 1: Read the following to the group: You have been asked to help the police department on a confusing case. They recently found Mr. Kelley murdered, but they don't know how or by whom he was murdered. Eager to solve the case, each person has been busy surveying the scene and interviewing witnesses. You have all been very thorough, but unfortunately, all the pieces of information are scattered among you.

Explain that the task is for the group to answer the following four questions:

- Who killed Mr. Kelley?
- At what time was the murder committed?
- What was the murder weapon?
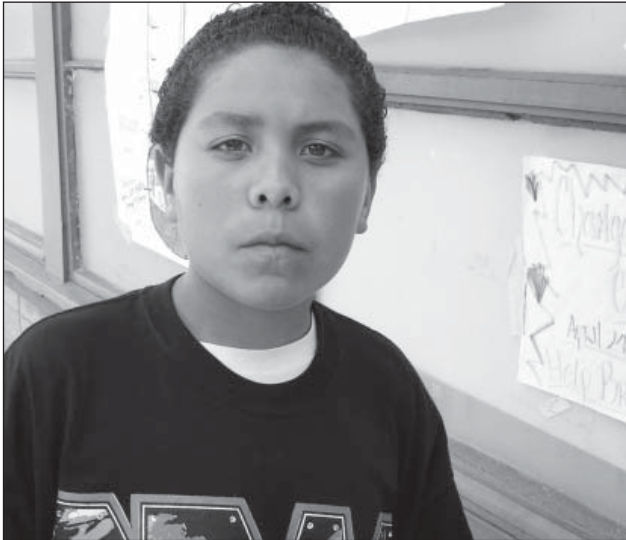- What was the motive?

Facilitation Tip:

The main objective of the Murder Mystery Mayhem activity is to show the benifits of facilitated discussion. If the group gets stuck, give some guidance by suggesting more effective ways to communicate as a group; however, the experience will be more significant if they have time to struggle.

- Was a leader needed?

- Did anyone assume this role?

- Did that work?

- Were all members involved in the task?

- Did anyone monopolize the discussion?

- How can we use this experience to improve future discussions?

IV. CLOSING: BENEFITS OF FACILITATION (10 MINUTES)

Using what was learned from today's activity, establish group norms for facilitation and agenda setting.

- What type of facilitation is needed?

- Does the group need a set facilitator?

- Who should set the agenda?

- When does it need to be set?

- Under what circumstances would we "throw out" or change the agenda?

- Record these ideas on butcher paper.

Step 2: Explain that in order to complete this task, each group member will get at least one clue. Participants can share their information only by word of mouth. No one is allowed to pass around their clues or read the clues of other participants. Distribute the various clues evenly to all participants. Remind them not to show one another their clues. Then let them begin the activity.

Step 3: Discussion and debrief. When the group seems to have some resolution, ask them to answer the four questions. Then, use the following questions to discuss the purpose of this activity:

- Why do you think we did this activity?

- How was time lost getting organized?

Answer:
After receiving a superficial gunshot wound from Mr. Jones, Mr. Kelley went to Mr. Scott's apartment where he was killed by Mr. Scott with a knife at 12:30 a.m. because Mr. Scott was in love with Mr. Kelley's wife.

Murder Mystery Mayhem Clues

Mr. Kelley's body had a bullet hole in the high thigh and a knife wound in the back.

Mr. Jones shot at an intruder in his apartment building at midnight.

The elevator operator reported to police that he saw Mr. Kelley at 12:15 a.m.

The bullet taken from Mr. Kelley's thigh matched the gun owned by Mr. Jones.

Only one bullet had been fired from Mr. Jones' gun.

When the elevator man saw Mr. Kelley, Mr. Kelley was bleeding slightly but did not seem badly hurt.

A knife with Mr. Kelley's blood on it was found in Miss Smith's yard.

The knife found in Miss Smith's yard had Mr. Scott's fingerprints on it.

Mr. Kelley had destroyed Mr. Jones' business by stealing all his customers.

The elevator man saw Mr. Kelley's wife go to Mr. Scott's apartment at 11:30 p.m.

The elevator operator said that Mr. Kelley's wife frequently left the building with Mr. Scott.

Mr. Kelley's blood was found in the park.

Mr. Kelley's body was found at 1:30 a.m.

MORE CLUES:

Mr. Kelley had been dead for one hour when his body was found, according to a medical expert working with police.

The elevator man saw Mr. Kelley go to Mr. Scott's room at 12:15 a.m.

The elevator man went off duty at 12:30 a.m.

It was obvious from the condition of Mr. Kelley's body that it had been dragged a long distance.

Miss Smith saw Mr. Kelley go to Mr. Jones' apartment building at 11:55 p.m.

Mr. Kelley's wife disappeared after the murder.

Police were unable to locate Mr. Scott after the murder.

When police tried to locate Mr. Jones after the murder, they discovered that he had disappeared.

The elevator man said that Miss Smith was in the lobby of the apartment building when he went off duty.

Mr. Jones had told Mr. Kelley that he was going to kill him.

Miss Smith often followed Mr. Kelley.

Miss Smith said that nobody left the apartment building between 12:25 and 12:45 a.m.

Mr. Kelley's blood stains were found on the carpet in the hall outside Mr. Jones's apartment.