

THE CHAIN OF DIVERSITY

To celebrate cultural diversity at UNC Charlotte

15-30
minutes

of interactive activity
taken place in the classroom

20-25
students

to embrace their differences and
to focus on their similarities

Purpose

This activity is a strong follow-up to an initial discussion about different cultures.

- Students will discover ways in which they are similar and are different from others in the class, and that each person is unique.
- To prepare, make trips of colored construction paper so that each students will have two strips.
- Strips should be about 1.5-2 inches wide.

Procedure

Organize participants into a circle. Each participant will take two strips.

- Students pair up with their neighbor to write on the 1st strip 3 differences between them **without talking** (ie. appearance, age, ethnicity, gender).
- Consequently, ask them to start **talking** to each other to write on the other side of the strip 3 things which they have in common (ie. hobbies, experience, food, places, interests).
- After that, participants will pair up with their other neighbor to repeat the same differences and similarity on the 2nd strips.
- Start a chain by overlapping and stapling together the ends of one strip. Pass the staple to each person and ask the participants to add their two strips to the chain. Continue until all students have added their strips to the chain.

Discussion

Ask students to reflect on the many things they have in common, also emphasis that each person in the group is unique.

- Conclude by pointing out that although people come from different backgrounds, in many ways they are the same.
- Display the Chain of Diversity on a bulletin board or around the doorway of your meeting room.
- The Chain of Diversity will symbolize the common aspects and the uniqueness that each person contributes to the group.