

The Blaming Glove

Audience: *K-12 Teachers, Principals*

Time: *10 minutes*

PROCEDURES

- 1) Determine when to use the *The Blaming Glove* activity. One option is to use it as an opener, setting the stage for reading and analyzing data. A second option is to use it when participants are beginning to point fingers, literally or figuratively, at those they feel are to blame for student data results.
- 2) Begin by inviting one of the participants to make it clear who is at fault. Hand the volunteer participant the glove and tell them to put it on and point a finger at the person to blame. It is not possible to “point a finger” because the fingers of the glove are connected.
- 3) Use the unexpected, humorous outcome to lead to a brief discussion about the ineffectiveness of finger-pointing.
- 4) Use the circle of influence as a follow-up to the finger-pointing session. Referring to the poster, discuss the three circles and determine which circle is the most productive.
 - The center circle = “What I can change?”
 - The next circle = “What I can influence?”
 - The outermost circle = “What I have no control over?”
- 5) Refer back to the circle of influence as needed throughout the session.

COMMENTS TO FACILITATOR

If you are working with a large group of participants, prepare two sets of gloves.

Draw *The Circle of Influence* on chart paper or print it out as a poster to display.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Participants will examine attitudes and beliefs about factors that contribute to assessment results.

DESCRIPTION

This activity is designed to diffuse finger pointing and facilitate movement away from a “blame frame” to a “solution frame.” It is effective as an ice-breaker or as a spontaneous activity during a data analysis session.

MATERIALS AND RESOURCES

- A pair of large gardening gloves with the fingers glued or sewn together
- *Circle of Influence* poster

VARIATIONS & EXTENSIONS

Ask participants to represent various groups or roles to be blamed.

Examples: Third grade teachers; students who will not do their homework; the superintendent; parents who ignore invitations to school conferences, etc.

NOTES