# Communication

**Activity**: **Say That Again!**
**Audience**: 6th – 8th grades
**Time Required**: 10 minutes
**Location:** Any location where participants can stand comfortably in lines

**Objectives:** Participants will:

- Learn that other people may communicate differently
- Learn the importance of respecting everyone, regardless of how they communicate.

**Life Skills:** Communication, leadership

**Overview:** Personality types and temperaments affect how people prefer to communicate and how comfortable they are with strangers

**Do the Activity**:

1. Divide the class into two lines. Have the lines face each other so that each participant is facing a partner.
2. Start with the two lines standing 6 feet apart.
3. Pick a comfortable topic (such as favorite book or movie, music, hobby), and tell each student in line one to talk about this topic for two minutes with her/his partner.
4. When line one is finished, assign another topic to the participants in line two and have them discuss it with their partners for two minutes.
5. Ask participants to take a step forward and repeat the process.
6. Ask participants to take another step forward and repeat the process.
7. Continue until participants are almost touching.
8. Have participants return to their original lines, standing 6 feet apart.
9. Repeat steps 5 and 6, but instead of stepping closer, have participants take a step farther away from each other.

**Reflect and Apply**: Discuss the following :

1. How did you feel standing close to your partner?
2. How did you feel standing far away from your partner?
3. How close did your partner get before you felt uncomfortable?
4. Was there any variation in your class regarding the amount of personal space needed by individuals?
5. What factors affect personal space needs?
6. Does the amount of personal space needed vary according to culture? Did differences in your class support your answer?

7. Did you notice a difference in the personal space needs between boys and girls?
8. How does personal space affect communication?
9. How would you use what you have learned in future communications with people?

Source: RISE curriculum, University of Connecticut