

## The Listening Game

DO: Give each of the youth a piece of paper and a pencil. Ask youth to raise their hands if they think they are good listeners. Tell them they are going to take a “listening test” to see how well they listen. Tell them you are going to read some instructions and they have to listen carefully because you are not going to repeat any of the directions.

1. Place a sheet of paper before you as you would for writing a letter.
2. Draw a line across the top of the paper parallel to the top and about one inch from the top.
3. Draw a second line across the top of the page parallel to the first line and about ½ inch below the first line.
4. Draw a third line the length of the page parallel to the left side of the page and about one inch from the left side.
5. Draw a fourth line parallel to the third line and about ½ inch to the right of the third line.
6. In the small upper left-hand corner, write the word “united.”
7. In the larger upper right-hand space, write the word “states.”
8. In the small square, print a small lower-case “d” upside down.
9. Fold the paper three times and sign your name. Exchange your paper with your neighbor.
10. Open the paper.

Ask youth if anyone thinks they have the correct diagram the paper he/she is holding. Show them the correct diagram. Typically only about 10-15% of papers are correct in any given group.

REFLECT: What was hard about this activity?  
What do you think was required in order to get the diagram correct?  
Why do you think so many people thought they were good listeners, but so many people got the diagram wrong?

APPLY: When is it important to listen very carefully to someone?  
How do we know when someone is listening to us?  
How does it feel when you are listened to? How does it feel when you are not listened to?