



## Activity #9

**\*Appropriate for 2nd - 5<sup>th</sup> grade audiences.**

### The Bag Game

#### Description:

Participants are asked to sit in a circle and told that they will be receiving a small snack or treat. A small brown paper bag is placed in front of each person. What participants don't initially realize is that each bag contains very different amounts of the snack or treat.

#### Objective:

- To demonstrate the impact of unequal access to food
- To stimulate discussion about the different ways we can respond to food insecurity within our own communities

#### Materials:

- Boxes of raisins or candy (*using a snack or treat that participants like will raise the stakes in this activity*)
- Lunch-size paper bags (*number of bags depends on the number of participants*)
- Distribution (*example for a group of 25*)
  - 8 bags – no treat
  - 8 bags - 5 small boxes of raisins or pieces of candy
  - 8 bags – 10 small boxes of raisins or pieces of candy
  - 1 bag - Full of raisins or candy
- Smart board, white board, or flipchart with markers

**Time:**

30 minutes

**Activity Directions**

- Be sure to divide the treats so that roughly an equal number of participants receive none, small or moderate amounts, and only one student receives a large amount of the snack.
- While participants sit at their desks, tables, or in a circle on the floor, explain that you are giving them a snack or treat.
- Pass out a closed brown (*so you can't see contents*) paper sack to each person. (*Students should not open bags until instructed by facilitator. It's a good idea to fill the empty sacks with crumpled paper so that they all look the same.*)
- When everyone has received a bag, instruct them to go ahead and open them and give them a minute to absorb what is happening.

**Discussion Questions**

- How did it feel to be the one in the group that received the most snacks? What were your initial thoughts?
- How did it feel to be among the few who received nothing in your snack bags? What were your first thoughts?
- What parallels can you draw between this activity and our community at large? Or between this activity and unequal access to food and other resources?
- How can we come up with a solution for distributing today's snacks so that everyone has enough, and what are some action steps that we can take in our own communities so that everyone has enough to eat?