

Thank You!

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Appropriate Grades: 2-5+

Objectives:

- Students will express ideas through still body images.
- Students will maintain focus.
- Students will use non-verbal communication (eye contact, gestures)
- Students will collaborate with others.

Materials:

- Open space large enough for the whole group.

Procedure:

- Arrange students in a circle, standing.
- Explain that they will be creating a still image (or “statue” or “photograph”) that can either be realistic (shaking hands with an imaginary partner or a military salute) or abstract (an interesting shape with their body). Model one of each for them. Encourage them to use levels—high, medium, or low.
- Ask a volunteer to step to the middle of the circle and create a still image. Model for the others their options—they can copy the image, mirror the image, or create a new image that relates to the first still image. **NOTE:** You may want to set the expectations that there will be no touching or no violence—no punches, no kicks, no weapons.
- Once the second person has come in and created a new still image, the first person “unfreezes”, looks at the second person and says “Thank you”. The first person returns to their position in the circle while the second person maintains their still image.
- The next person in the circle comes in and, again, creates another still image that can either copy, mirror, or relate to the image in the middle. Once the new still image is established, other person “unfreezes”, looks at the new person, says “Thank you” and returns to the circle.
- Continue this around the circle until you arrive back to the original volunteer. That student will be the last person to go to the middle to “rescue” a still image.
- Debrief—what was observed? Explain that this exercise can be a starting point to using tableaux—creating scenes from stories they are reading.

Modifications:

- Play background music—something that is neutral, not too rhythmic, and no discernable vocals.
- Play the game again, but instead of going in order around the circle, students enter at random. This will take some control and cooperation so all students participate.
- From Amanda Reid’s class at Sombra del Monte—still images in pairs. Two people start in the middle and two people enter to create still images. Try threes.

Evaluation: Debriefing, teacher observation.

