



THE GREAT GAME OF POWER

Number of players: 3+

Space: Open room

Supplies: Six Chairs [though you could use less] and a water bottle

Procedure:

Ask for a volunteer to silently arrange the chairs and bottle so as to make one chair become the most powerful object, in relation to the other chairs. Any of the objects can be moved or placed on top of each other, or on their sides, or whatever but none of the objects can be removed altogether from the space. The volunteer does not reveal their thinking behind the arrangement. Have the rest of the group interpret or “read” the image as to which chair they feel is the most powerful. Encourage a number of different interpretations. Have another volunteer repeat the activity. After a few versions ask for a student to enter the picture and place themselves in the most powerful position in relation to the other objects. Read the image. You may continue to add students with each student attempting to place themselves in the most powerful position. Have all students sit and discuss the activity.

Possible side coaching:

“Remember you can place the chairs in any way you want.”

“How can the water bottle be utilized in your image?”

Questions to consider:

- Describe how the chairs are positioned?
- When the chairs are positioned [as they just described] what do you think that means?
- What does the water bottle represent in this image [resources or a specific object]?

Processing points:

- What ways did chairs and people take power in this activity?
- What makes a person powerful?
- Who is powerful in our world now? Why?

Possible learning areas:

Social skills, higher order thinking skills, literature themes, social studies

Source: Augusto Boal