Numbers Don’t Lie

Supplies Needed: None

Number of People: The more, the better!

Directions:

• The group stands in a horseshoe formation. Count off down the line so that each player has a number.

• The first person (Number 1 in the lineup) calls out someone else’s number: “Twelve!” That person immediately calls out someone else’s number: “Five!” That person quickly calls out another number: “Eight!” and so on. The first person to hesitate, at all, or call a wrong number (either their own or one that doesn’t exist), relinquishes his or her place and goes to the end of the line. That person and all who were previously behind him or her in the lineup now have different numbers.

• As it continues, people will constantly “blow it” and have to move to the end of the line. BUT here’s the hitch: Rather than grimacing or groaning, they must raise one fist in the air and say “Yes!” with triumph, and trot proudly to last place. Everyone else must applaud admiringly.

Suggestions: Keep the pace so fast that everybody (including you) “fails” a lot!

Debriefing Questions:

• How did it feel to make light of minor failure? How did it feel to watch someone else do it?

• Why are we usually inclined to gnash our teeth and groan when we fail--even in (let’s face it) a silly little game that has no bearing on real life?

• Are there any other minor failures you have made too often in your life?