

Immersion Suit Exercise

Prep-time: 1 hour

Activity time: 1 hour

Observation: Humans communicate through many channels. Not only are words important, but tone, gestures and facial expression are necessary to understand the message. Even if some information is missing, humans can fill in the gaps to effectively communicate. However, computer programming requires exact instructions to accomplish tasks. Students are familiar with computers, but are often intimidated at the prospect of programming a computer. Computers follow exact instructions, therefore learning how to give and follow clear instructions is necessary when learning how to program a computer.

Theory: By restricting the communication between students to only verbal commands, students will learn the importance of how to give and receive precise instructions.

Set-up and Materials:

1. Immersion suit (1 per pair of students)
2. Blindfold

Activity: Students will break into pairs, each pair having their own immersion suit and blindfold.

1. One student in each pair is blindfolded.
2. The blindfolded person is provided a folded, packed immersion suit.
3. The non-blindfolded student can give only verbal commands (no other helping is allowed) to instruct the blindfolded student how to put on the immersion suit.
4. Hilarity ensues.
5. Students switch roles.

Outcomes: Students learn how difficult it can be to give clear instructions to accomplish a goal. This is a helpful lesson when learning how to program a computer. It also builds comradery and shared experience for a group.