Keep an Arms-length away.

Distance is cultural too!

Take a ruler or yardstick. Go talk to someone in the room following each of the situations below. Talk to a different person for each item. After you feel comfortable with that person, measure the distance between you. (Participants are given rulers and yardsticks)

1. Very close_____ (tell a secret to a friend or close family member)

2. Close _____ (Audible whisper, it's a confidential matter with a close colleague)

3. Near_____ (Indoors, soft voice; Outdoors. full voice. It's a confidential matter.)

3. Personal _____ (Normal conversation with any colleague - soft voice, low volume)

4. Neutral_____(Normal conversation when person is not well known to you; subject matter is general and you are speaking in a full voice)

5. Public_____(Loud conversation; subject matter is general and you are speaking in a slightly raised voice.)

6. Across the room _____ (Loud voice; talking to a group)

Now have participants compare there reponses to the averages. Most of your participatns should have a response that is close to this model. Have group discuss incidences when they felt someone stood too close. What feelings does this evoke?

Here are the average American distances for these activities:

1. Very close_____ (tell a secret to a friend or close family member) - Average American distance: **3 to 6 inches.**

2. Close _____ (Whisper, it's a confidential matter with a close colleague) - Average American distance: **8 to 12 inches**

3. Near_____ (Whisper, it's a confidential matter with a colleague of the opposite sex) Average American distance: **12 to 20 inches.**

3. Personal _____ (Normal conversation with any colleague) Average American distance: **20 to 36 inches**.

4. Neutral_____(Normal conversation when person is not well known to you; subject matter is general and you are speaking in a full voice) Average American distance: **4 1/2 to 5 feet**

6. Public_____ Loud conversation; subject matter is general and you are speaking in a slightly voice) Average American distance: **5 1/2 to 8 feet.**

7. Across the room_____(Loud voice; talking to a group): **8 ft to 20 feet**