October 2018 Training Tip



Green Light Education
A new perspective



Close Enough For Success

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Sometimes, people simply aren't close enough – to a partner, to their group, or to the screen – to engage in a task effectively. Actively moving them closer often leads to better interactions between participants, better focus during discussions, and better understanding.

Make sure your participants are close enough to succeed:

Move towards a partner. When setting up people to talk with a partner, use the instruction: "Move your chair so you're close together." Without specifically instructing participants to make this adjustment, some will remain too far apart for a useful interaction.

Stand and deliver. If the size and shape of desks or tables force people too far apart, ask them to stand up and work together without the furniture in the way.

Cluster group seating. When your participants are working in groups, make sure they're sitting close enough so everyone can easily hear.

Gather them in. If you ask people to join you at the front of the room to better see a visual, make sure everyone is close enough to see the screen or flip chart clearly. Give the instruction: "Make sure, you can see. Move to the side or stand on a chair if needed."

Being close to other participants, to their group, or to the screen increases people's focus on what is happening – and decreases the potential distraction of anything else that might be happening in the room.