

# Project 18-1

## Proximity of Friendship

### Concept

One of the most important factors in determining whether two people will become friends is physical proximity. In general, the closer two individuals are geographically to each other, the more likely they are to become attracted to each other.

### Materials Needed

- a copy of the top portion of the data sheet for each pair of participants
- pen or pencil

### Assembly

1. Make copies of the top portion of the data sheet for each participant.

### Procedure

1. Invite 20 adult participants to provide the information requested on the data sheet. (Items 1, 3, and 5 are included to help the participants focus on a specific person.) Data collection can be done with individuals, with small groups, or with all 20 participants at one time.
2. Ask participants to be as specific as possible. It is important to elicit responses similar to the ones listed below. Share the following example with participants.  
Example: I met Peggy the first day of college. Our last names both begin with Mc and the chemistry professor assigned lab partners in alphabetical order.
3. Collect the data sheets and thank the participants.

### Things to Observe

Directions: On a separate sheet of paper, answer the following questions.

- When you review the data for Item 2 for all participants, are there any similarities among the responses?
- When you review the data for Item 4 for all participants, are there any similarities among the responses?
- When you review the data for Item 6 for all participants, are there any similarities among the responses?

### Analyzing the Results

Directions: On a separate sheet of paper, answer the following questions.

1. How frequently did physical proximity play a role in how each participant met the three friends named?
2. How frequently did physical proximity play a role in how participants met friends during childhood?
3. How frequently did physical proximity play a role in how participants met friends during high school?
4. How frequently did physical proximity play a role in how participants met friends after high school?

 **Data Sheet**

Directions for Participants: Please provide the information requested below.

1. List the first name of a good friend from childhood (prior to high school).

\_\_\_\_\_

2. How did you meet the person named in Item 1? Be as specific as possible.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. List the first name of a good friend you met during high school.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. How did you meet the person named in Item 3? Be as specific as possible.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. List the first name of a good friend you met after high school.

\_\_\_\_\_

6. How did you meet the person named in Item 5? Be as specific as possible.

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