

Advanced Techniques in Loitering with Purpose

Setup

Location: A public space where lingering is unusual but not prohibited

Participants bring:

- Timepiece and/or phone on airplane mode

Facilitator brings:

- Fake "research" badges (optional)

Steps

1. Introduction (5 min)

Explain that loitering can be a tool for seeing differently — noticing rhythms, chance encounters, overlooked details. Ask folks to turn phones on airplane mode. Challenge them to keep it in their pocket and use another timepiece to measure time.

2. Skill Development (14 min total)

Standard Loitering (2 min) Stand still for 60 seconds, pretending to wait for something while looking in random directions.

Drift Loitering (5 min) Slowly move between 3 fixed point

Echo Loitering (2 min) Stand just near enough to overhear, without interrupting

Posture Loitering (5 min) Change body position from standing to squatting to lying

3. Field Practice (5–10 min)

Wearing badge (if using): Loiter in chosen spots for 5–10 minutes, recording any odd details or interactions.

4. Debrief (10–15 min)

Have folks write their observations/techniques on back of badge.

Verbal share in group.