

## Making real people smaller than your thumb

Start by asking:

*"With your arm fully extended, how far away does a person have to be so your thumb just covers up their face?"*

Usually, after this question is asked, students will begin sighting people from their desks. Good. Ask them to stay seated and sight on one thumb held at arm's length. The object is to find other students at a distance that makes their faces appear about "thumb size."

For the next question, explain that you want them not to try it, but to think about it, decide on an answer, and keep the answers to themselves.

Ask the question. . .

*"Suppose you held out two thumbs together with your arms fully extended. You want the two thumbs to just cover up the same person's face. Would you have to go closer to the person, or farther away?"*

After giving them some time to think about the question, take a secret survey. Ask students to put their hands in front of their chests so other students can't see their response. Those who think *farther*, put thumbs up. Those who think *closer*, put thumbs down.

Usually the vote is divided about 50-50.

Put up the *Making Real People Smaller Than Your Thumb* overhead and briefly read through it to see if everyone understands what to do. Ask students to work in pairs but to record results on their own papers or notebooks.

