“This is not a roll of tape” Warm-up Exercise

By Teaching Artist Lindsay Genshaft
Grade Level(s): Scalable

**Materials:** roll of tape, or other stand-in object you want students to transform with their imaginations.

The teaching artist holds up a roll of tape and explains she has an imagination challenge for the group. The object of the game is to transform the tape into something it is not. The only thing that it cannot be is roll of tape; anything else that is appropriate for school is okay.

The goal of the game is to explain what the object is and to use it in the appropriate manner. Use the phrase “This is not a roll of tape, this is a ...” The student utters the phrase then adds a gesture appropriate to how they would use the object.

For example, the teaching artist begins by saying “This is not a roll of tape this is my new, shiny camera.”

Then the teaching artist takes a picture of a student with her “camera.” The teaching artist may ask for volunteers or challenge the group to see how quickly they can make it all the way around the room without repeating an object.

**Discuss:** what choices students saw other people make that really helped them to see the object as something other than a roll of tape.