



**Les Paul: Active Discussion in Perseverance**  
*Created by the First Stage Education Department*

1. After reading the article, “Les Paul Talks About Adapting to Physical Challenges,” have students stand up and find a relatively empty space in the room.
2. In a moment, say “GO” and have the students begin walking around the open space at a moderate speed—their objective is to cover the space with their body while always staying in motion (no talking or touching others)...until the teacher says “FREEZE.”
3. At this point, instruct students to find the three people closest to them in proximity and form a group. In this group, have them discuss the following prompt:
  - a. Name some of the great accomplishments Les Paul achieved in his lifetime. What would have happened if he had given up before reaching his goals?
  - b. Allow groups 1-2 minutes to discuss in their small groups.
4. Bring students back to a neutral stance and again when the teacher says “GO,” have students walk around the room covering the space until they are instructed to “FREEZE” again.
5. This time, students should identify one person closest to them in proximity, and form a pair. With their partner, have them discuss the following prompt:
  - a. Share one of your dreams or goals. Discuss what it will take to reach your dream or goal.
  - b. Allow pairs 1-2 minutes to discuss with their partners.
6. Bring students back to a neutral stance and again when the teacher says “GO,” have students walk around the room covering the space until they are instructed to “FREEZE” again.
7. This last time, students should identify the two people closest to them in proximity and form a group. In this group, have them discuss the following prompt:
  - a. Do obstacles keep us from reaching our goals? How does perseverance relate to overcoming obstacles?
  - b. Allow groups 1-2 minutes to discuss in their small groups.
8. Have the class come together and go through the questions as a large group. Invite students to share their thoughts or their partners’ thoughts on the three discussion prompts.