



ACTIVITIES TO CELEBRATE DIVERSITY

Why do we care? *Understanding people and their backgrounds is very important for personal growth and overcoming ignorance.*

JUST BY LOOKING AT ME

SOURCE:

(<http://www.stonehill.edu/files/resources/talusandiversityteambuilders.pdf>)

The Purpose of This Activity

This activity will allow participants to disclose some personal information that they may not have had the opportunity to share yet. The goal is to demonstrate that there is much more to a person than what comes out in face-to-face encounters.

GOALS: To begin to understand the importance of looking beyond appearances, encouraging self-reflection, and allowing for meaningful group dialogue. This also encourages participants to ask meaningful questions and find out more information about their peers.

Estimated Time

2-3 minutes each participant + 15 minute debrief

Materials

None



Audience: All Ages

How to Play

1. Form a circle with chairs or sitting on the floor if participants are able.
2. Participants will be asked to say the following prompt: "My name is ___ and I am from ___. One thing you cannot tell just by looking at me is ___. This is important for me to tell you because ___."
3. For students with different learning and remembering capabilities, it will be useful to write this out on a sheet of paper to pass around as a "script."
4. Demonstrate the prompt by filling it in and reciting your own to model the exercise.
5. Allow participants to share their own after emphasizing listening skills and respect.

Suggested Debriefing Questions

1. What are 1-2 words that describe what this activity was like for you?
2. How did you feel when you said your statement?
3. How did you decide what to share about yourself?
4. Did anybody else's responses surprise you? Why?
5. How can you find out meaningful information about your peers in the future? What is the value in that?

Things to Consider

- Participants can choose to disclose high or low risk responses. Be open to anything that participants may want to share, and encourage them to say what is important to them at the time of the activity.
- Depending on group size, you can have participants share 1-2-3 things, etc.

What Do We Have in Common?

SOURCE: <http://www.volunteerpower.com/resources/Icebreaker.asp>

The Purpose of This Activity

This activity will allow participants to discover similarities in each other even if they are from diverse backgrounds. The goal is to demonstrate that there is much more to a person than what comes out in face-to-face encounters. Goals: To begin to understand the importance of looking beyond appearances, encouraging self-reflection, and allowing for meaningful group dialogue. This also encourages participants to ask meaningful questions and find out more information about their peers.

Estimated Time

2 minutes each participant + 15 minute debrief

Materials

None

Audience: Ages 4-12

How to Play

Have everyone get in groups of three and stand in a circle. Tell them that their assignment for the next two minutes is to find five distinctive things that the three of them have in common. The three things cannot be job related or obvious (all are girls). Examples: All born in the same city, all have two siblings, all show an animal at the fair. Have the first groups that finish sit down. When the two minutes are up, tell the first three groups to introduce themselves and find out what they have in common.



Knots of People

SOURCE: <http://www.kimskorner4teachertalk.com/classmanagement/icebreakers.html#Knots>

The Purpose of This Activity

This activity will allow participants to connect with each other from diverse backgrounds

Estimated Time

2 minutes each participant + 15 minute debrief

Materials

None

Audience: All Ages

How to Play

Divide the group into teams of 8 to 12 members. Have each person join right hands with another person in the group, but it has to be someone who is NOT standing immediately to the left or right. Then have each person join left hands with another person in the group, but it has to be someone who is NOT standing immediately to the left or right and someone other than before. Now the groups have to untangle themselves without letting go of hands. They may have to loosen their grips a little to allow for twisting and turning. They may have to step over or under other people. The first group to untangle their knot is the winner.

SPECIAL NOTE: There are four possible solutions to the knot: One large circle with people facing either direction, two interlocking circles, a figure eight, a circle within a circle.

Suggested Debriefing Questions

1. What was the strategy to get out of the knot?
2. What has this activity taught you about others?
3. Who were the leaders?

CONNECT THE DOTS

SOURCE: (http://mep.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/PSU_Diversity_activities.pdf)

The Purpose of This Activity

Participants will experience the fact that we often subconsciously limit our perspectives and alternatives.

Estimated Time

5 minutes+ 5-10 minute debrief

Materials

Paper, pencil with eraser

Audience: 7 and up

How to Play

Draw three rows of three dots, evenly spaced, on a sheet of paper. Connect all of the dots with four straight lines. Do not lift your pencil off the paper. Do not retrace any line. Lines may cross if necessary.

Suggested Debriefing Questions

1. Why it is that most of us did not think of going outside the boundaries to solve the problem?
2. Can you name a time finding a good solution to a problem required thinking “outside of the box?”

