

Speed-Mingling Icebreaker

Summary

In this icebreaker activity, students cycle through different partners in quick succession and take turns answering prompts given by the instructor before turning to a new partner for a new prompt. It is a quick and accessible way to make students feel more connected to their peers prior to engaging in deeper conversation topics.

Outcomes

Students will:

- Learn at least 3 new things about fellow participants
- Have the chance to share at least 3 new things about themselves with others
- Become more comfortable or at ease within the group

Details

For Who?	Any age, any experience level with constructive dialogue
How Long?	This is a one-time activity. Its duration depends on how many questions you choose to ask, and the interest-level of the group.
Supplies Needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stickie Notes• Index Cards• Pens or markers for all participants

Activity Purpose

Trust-building activities are an important foundation for any group work, but especially if the purpose of the group's work is to navigate difference. This activity can be used during those critical early days of group trust-building to ensure that a group is prepared to support one another through more difficult conversations.

Detailed Agenda

1 Set the Stage

Divide the group into two evenly-sized subgroups. Invite them to stand in two circles: one outside circle and one inside circle. Students in the inside circle should face outward, and students in the outside circle should face inward.

In this arrangement, an outside person should be facing an inside circle person – this is their first partner for the activity.

2 Read Through Conversation Prompts

Read through the first prompt, and invite pairs to take turns responding (1-2 minutes).

When the time is up, invite the inner circle to shift one person to the left, while the outer circle stays in place. This means everyone should be facing a new partner.

Read the next prompt, and set the timer for 1-2 minutes again. The activity will progress until the prompts run out. At least 6 rounds of prompts can achieve the outcomes of this activity.

Suggested Prompts

- What is your favorite holiday?
- What is your favorite food?
- What is the last song or musician you listened to?
- Is there any kind of music you hate? If so, what is it?
- Where are you from? What is something you like and dislike about where you're from?
- What animal are you most like? Why?
- What is your school like?
- What is your closest friend like?
- What is your favorite thing to do on a Saturday?

- What is your favorite place in the world?
- What is something you love about yourself?
- What is something you are really proud of?
- Who is your role model?
- What is a dream you have for your future?

Wrap-up

Debrief Questions

Ask students to share their reflections in the full group or in smaller groups.

- What was that like for you?
- Did you discover similarities? Differences?
- Did anyone learn something new or surprising they'd like to share?
- It sounds like there are a lot of similarities, but also want to point out that we bring a diversity of experiences to this room. How do you think our diversity, our diverse backgrounds and experiences will affect the types of conversations we have here?

Instructor Considerations

Virtual Version

Virtually, this activity can have random pairs in breakout rooms for the same short 1-2 minute segments, with a pre-assigned prompt.

To switch pairs, bring everyone back to the full room, share the new prompt, and break them into new pairs in breakout rooms for 1-2 minutes.

Higher Education or Adult PD Adaptations

This activity can be easily modified by shifting the nature of the prompts to fit the audience.