

Breaking the Ice with Ready to Use Icebreakers (continued)

Seussicality

Ask someone in the group to shout out a word. Say the word is “issues.” Then, challenge each person to come up with a brief Dr. Seuss rhyme focused on that word. Give ‘em a few minutes to jot their thoughts down and ask everyone to share their concoctions. For example: “If I focus on my issues, I’ll be sure to need some tissues, For they make me sneeze, They make me wheeze, And no, I sure won’t kiss you!”

Pick a Pack

During a lull in the action, ask everyone to write his or her name down on a slip of paper. Put all of these in a hat and then pick one. This person must pull an item from their backpack and explain how it represents them. Do this a few times so that several people have a chance to share a piece of themselves.

Penny for Your Thoughts

Hand out a penny to each person and ask them to share one thought they have following the group experience. Bring a bowl filled with a little water and have everyone throw their penny in the “wishing well.”

The Question Go-Round

Ask everyone to sit in a circle. Tell them that for the next 5 minutes, you all need to speak in questions. Begin by posing a question to the person on your left such as “Do you understand why helium makes your voice funny?” That person must then turn to the person on his left and ask another related question such as “Is helium considered a drug?” Keep going around the circle quickly until everyone has had at least one turn. Anyone not speaking in questions must sit out.

In the Headlines

Break the group into small clusters of 3-4 people each. Their task, should they choose to accept it, is to create a headline for each organization member. What about that person is newsworthy? They may have to “interview” each other to find out! This helps to get students talking and offering information about themselves. Plus, they’ll have a chance to practice those listening skills.

Super Hero Soup

Most people have a secret hankering to be a super hero with a secret identity, or at least they used to when they were a kid. Ask each of your residents what super hero they would most like to be (Aqua Man, the Green Lantern, Wonder Woman, etc.). Have people explain why they identify with this super hero. Then, have group members create a secret identity to match their super hero.

Activities...

When preparing icebreakers, keep in mind the diversity of personalities, abilities, and backgrounds each of your group members may bring with them. Make every effort to diversify your activities to accommodate the various needs and abilities of each individual.

For instance, how will you include someone who is in a wheelchair or who has a temporary cast on one leg?