



Midsize Icebreakers – August 07



Have you ever been the “invisible” person sitting at the edge of a group, while others are up mingling and chatting? Although you have attended week after week, those ten minutes of social time before class begins can seem like an eternity when you feel you don’t know anyone. Everyone wants to belong, but not everyone is good at socializing. Midsize groups do not always allow for the level of intimacy that a smaller group affords, and icebreakers are a necessary tool that include everyone and can help promote deep and meaningful relationships within your group. They can be the first opportunity to get people talking to each other. Through icebreakers, one can learn names, jobs, hobbies, personalities, family dynamics, etc. that they otherwise may never know. Participants have a chance to meet others in the group with whom they may share a common interest. As people get to know one another better, they can better encourage each other in life. Friendship is a growing thing. It begins with comfort, develops into trust, and blossoms into life sharing. Icebreakers focus on the first level: helping people grow comfortable enough with each other to talk and share with one another.

Chatter Bugs:

Purpose: Getting to know you.

Props: “Chatter Bugs” handout, whistle to signal when to change partners.

Instructions: Have participants divide into two groups. Have one group form a circle with their backs to the center of the circle. Have the other group form a larger circle outside of the other circle, with the two groups facing each other. Give a “Chatter Bug” handout to each person in the inside circle. Call out a “Chatter Bugs” topic from the handout and instruct participants to begin chatting about it with their partner. Each person gets 30 seconds to respond. After 1 minute, blow your whistle to signal time is up. Instruct participants to rotate one person to their right to face another new partner. Call out a different topic and have participants repeat the process until they have completely gone around the circle and “chatted” with everyone.

“Chatter Bug” Handout

1) My favorite thing is... 2) My favorite television show is... 3) My favorite type of music is... 4) If I could travel anywhere new I would go to... 5) The thing that makes me the happiest is... 6) My family... 7) The most important thing in my life is... 8) For a hobby, I... 9) I like or hate technology because... 10) I have or would like to have a pet... 11) I like to read... 12) If I could do anything I wanted, I would... 13) My dream car is a... 14) My favorite type of food is... 15) If I could say whatever I wanted to generations past, I’d say... 16) My favorite actor or actress is... 17) My best piece of advice is... 18) If my car could speak it would say... 19) My dream job is... 20) In ten years I will be...

<http://adulted.about.com/od/icebreakers>

Happy Birthday:

Purpose: Getting to know you.

Props: None.

Instructions: Ask participants to walk around and find others who share the same birth month. For example, my birthday is in September, so I would walk around repeating, “September” until I find others with the same birth month. When participants are in “birth month” groups, ask them to yell out their month in order beginning with January. Find out how many discovered common birthdays.

201 Icebreakers by Edie West

The Name Game:

Purpose: Getting to know you.

Props: Question sheet and basket.

Instructions: Have participants complete the questionnaire as they enter the room. Upon completion, have them fold it in half and place in a basket. Have someone randomly draw a card and read the answers out to the group as they guess which classmate it may be. Once someone selects the correct classmate, have that individual draw and read the next card.

Question Sheet:

Favorite Dream Vacation Spot, Favorite Type of Car, Favorite Actress/Actor, Favorite Movie, Favorite Hobby Favorite Color.

<http://www.businessfundamentals.com/IceBreakerList.htm>

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