



Human Billboards

Groups will tell each other about themselves by designing “human billboards”

TIME
20-30 minutes



MATERIALS
Paper, markers

TEAM STAGE
Norming

SUMMARY

Group members will create billboards that depict important things for others to know about them. They will have the opportunity to share and to get to know something about everyone in their group through this creative experience.

SET UP

- Preface this activity by asking participants to be vulnerable and trusting with each other. Remind them to only share what they feel comfortable sharing, and to be respectful of each other while sharing.
 - **Facilitator Note:** If participants are minors and the facilitator is a mandated reporter, be aware that these types of activities can possibly open up an opportunity for participants to bring up sensitive issues such as abuse or suspected abuse, suicide or self harm, neglect, etc. Remind participants at the start of the activity of the responsibilities of a mandated reporter and that they should only share what they are comfortable sharing. Strongly consider the risk level of prompts and the examples used as they will set the tone for what participants share. If the possible depth of vulnerability seems too high risk, alter prompts to be very low risk or choose a different activity.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Tell the participants that they will be creating Human Billboards for themselves. Have them draw or write anything they want to share about themselves on a piece of paper.
- Give them ten minutes or so to fill the page. Play appropriate music while they work.
- Then, give everyone time to mingle, holding up their paper for others to see. They can ask any (appropriate) questions they want to ask others about what is on their billboard. Give participants the ability to “pass” if they don’t feel comfortable answering a particular question. If you want more structure for sharing, utilize a set up from [Dyads](#) such as concentric circles or speed meeting.
- Encourage them to try to learn at least one thing about each person in the room while mingling and asking questions.

VARIATIONS

-  **Small Group:** To facilitate this activity for a small group, have everyone explain their billboard to the whole group rather than mingling and asking questions.
-  **Medium Risk:** To facilitate a more medium risk version of this activity, provide specific prompts for participants to include on their billboard, such as what are your hobbies or what goals do you have for the future.



VARIATIONS *(continued)*

-  **Online:** To facilitate this activity virtually, have participants either draw their billboards on paper and hold them up to the camera to share, or create them on their computer using a design application like Canva and share their screen to share. You can also use breakout rooms to share in smaller groups. [\[click here for video\]](#)
-  **Facilitator Note:** If using breakout rooms to share, consider having a facilitator or adult in each room since participants may share sensitive topics or elicit emotions that will need to be processed or debriefed.
-  **Asynchronous:** To facilitate this activity asynchronously, create a shared folder where participants can upload pictures of their billboards. Consider also creating a shared word document where participants can describe their billboard, since asking and answering questions among participants is not as easy asynchronously.
-  **Facilitator Note:** It is recommended that you have specific prompts for your participants to include. For example: *What is your favorite food? What is the subject you like most in school? What is your favorite season?* These types of low risk, intentional prompts give more control over content shared than allowing creative freedom.
- For a similar activity, see [Draw Your Life](#).

DEBRIEF QUESTIONS

- What:
 - How did you choose what to include on your billboard?
 - How did it feel sharing about yourself and learning about others?
- So What:
 - Why is it important to take the time to learn about each other in this way?
 - How do activities like this bring you together as a group?
- Now What:
 - What can you do to continue sharing about yourself and learning about others?
 - What can you do to create a space where the members of this group can feel comfortable being themselves?
-  **Facilitator Note:** These questions can be used to guide your debrief, however, pick the questions that best match your group's experience and add or change questions as needed. As a general note, getting to know you activities are used for the purpose of developing connections within the group. Typically you do not have to debrief a getting to know you activity, however, when done intentionally, inserting a mini debrief can help set up a lesson or tie your entire experience together in a more seamless fashion.