LEADERSHIP INSPIRATIONS

Introduce Your Partner

Get to know one group member and then introduce them to the rest of the group

TIME	MATERIALS	TEAM STAGE
20-30 minutes	Index cards, pens or pencils	Forming

Learning & Development Outcomes

This activity is the perfect way to practice active listening skills. On one hand, participants get the opportunity to actively listen to their partners share about themselves while asking appropriate follow up questions. On the other hand, they also get to practice retelling what they have learned about their partner in an authentic way.

Outcomes are focused on developing ***21st Century Skills*** and the ***National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) Career Competencies***, including, but not limited to:

- Listen effectively to decipher meaning, including knowledge, values, attitudes and intentions.
- Know when it is appropriate to listen and when to speak.
- Ask appropriate questions for specific information from supervisors, specialists, and others.
- Accurately summarize and interpret data with an awareness of personal biases that may impact outcomes.

Preparation & Logistics

Set Up

- Decide how the partners will be determined. Pre-selected pairs (or trios if there is an odd number of participants) or let the participants find their own partners.

Safety

- If participants are worried about remembering everything their partner says, you can encourage them to take notes.
- Remind participants to only share things they feel comfortable being said out loud to the rest of the group.
- Tell participants it is important to listen to their partner and share what they hear correctly.

Additional Considerations

- Set aside additional time for a debrief.
- *Click here to watch it live!*

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Instructions

Summary
In this activity, group members get paired up to learn about each other and then get to introduce one another to the rest of the group.

This activity is written for older participants, however it can be adjusted to be appropriate for any ages! Check out step two to see how to modify Introduce Your Partner for Kindergarteners up to 6th grade.

Step 1: Before the Activity
- Have everyone get together with their partner(s).

Step 2: Begin the Activity
- Give everyone five to ten minutes to get to know their partner(s). They can openly share about themselves and/or ask each other any questions.
  - **Age variations**
    - **K-2:** Instead of having participants go off on their own in pairs, have the whole group stand in a circle. Go around the circle and have each participant introduce themselves and the person that went before them. For example: "Hi my name is Morgan, this is Kevin." Then the next participant in the circle would say "Hi, my name is Kylie, this is Morgan."
    - **3-4:** Announce questions out loud to the group to prompt conversation between partners.
    - **5-6:** Write a list of 4-6 getting to know you questions in a place where the group can see them. Pass out blank peices of paper and writing utensils to each participant. Ask them to write down their partner's answers to the questions.

What happens if a participant doesn't know what to ask?

"To make this process easier for a group that is forming, provide specific questions for them to utilize in conversation in case they get stuck!"

How to end the activity
- Come back together as a whole group and go pair by pair so each participant can introduce their partner to the group. They will share any information they learned about their partner that they would like.

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.

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Debrief Questions

These questions are a starting point to guide your debrief. Pick the ones that best match your group's experience and add or change questions as needed!

What

- How was this activity different than just introducing yourself to the group?
- What was beneficial about this activity?

So What

- Why are one-on-one connections important in a group?
- How does taking the time to learn about your partner benefit you? Benefit them? Benefit the group?

Now What

- How can you continue building one-on-one relationships with the people in this group?
- How can you utilize some of the information you learned about your group members through this activity?

Adjustments for...

Age Ranges

- This activity is appropriate and fun for all age ranges! To make it more challenging for an older group of participants, try the age variations listed in the "**Instructions**" section.

Online

- To facilitate this activity virtually, put each pair into a breakout room to get to know each other. Then come back together in the main room and post an order of names in the chat. The order will be the order in which participants are introduced to the group - not the order in which participants will speak - so if the first name in the order is Morgan, Morgan will not speak first but his partner Kylie will introduce him first.

Each adjustment is its own unique idea for how to facilitate this activity for different groups and situations! Choose any or all that work!

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