



ICEBREAKER IDEAS

My Life as a Movie/Song

Have students choose one or two movies or songs that exemplify or symbolize their lives and explain why. If students haven't seen others' movies or songs, challenge them to watch or listen to them.

Most Treasured Possessions

Have students share a list of five items they could not live without and why.

Self-Portrait

Have each student create an image that is a self-portrait using any medium of their choice. A basic photograph will not be accepted, although photos can be used in the making of the self-portrait.

Room with a View

Have students describe in great detail their favorite view from any window. Include biographical details in the description, such as why they are in that place or why the view is meaningful. Have students tell someone else why they would like to trade places with them.

Associations

Have students individually share personal associations—then they can do it as a group:

If I/the group were a color, it would be...

If I/the group were music, it would be...

If I/the group were a shape, it would be...

If I/the group were a movie, it would be...

If I/the group were a mood, it would be...

What Kind of Animal?

Choose an animal that represents you. Give your name, the name of the animal, and list four characteristics of the animal you have chosen. Find someone who chose an animal that shares two of the characteristics of your animal. Contact them and together create a new animal that has your two shared characteristics and two new characteristics. Post the name of your new animal, your names, and the four characteristics of the new animal.

Snowball

The 1st person gives a basic introduction including his/her interests. The 2nd person introduces him/herself and finds one thing in common with the 1st person. A 3rd person introduces and finds one thing in common with the 1st and 2nd person. Each of the rest of the class members introduces themselves and finds something in common with at least 3 others. To make fair, the 1st person finds something in common with three people, the 2nd with two, and the 3rd with one.

Two Truths and a Lie

Share two truthful statements and one falsehood about yourself. Each member of the group tries to distinguish the truths from the lie. What makes this activity fun is to be as outrageous as possible while sharing a bit of who you really are. Once all responses have been received, post your truths and explain why you chose them to share

Pinterest Board

Have students create a Pinterest Board and include 10 pins that describe their personality.

A Day in the Life

Have students write or otherwise relate through photos, videos, or audio recordings, a description of what an average day is like for them.

Childhood Dream

Ask students to share their childhood dream and then relate it to what their current career aspirations are. Groups can thoughtfully discuss and compare/contrast how dreams and goals change over time.

Video Tour

Using their smart phones, have students take their classmates on a video tour of someplace that is important to them.

Eight Nouns

Students post eight nouns that best represent themselves and then describe why each noun was selected.

Five Pictures

Students create a collage of five pictures or images that best represent themselves and describe why these were selected. Make sure to have students cite sources for images that are not their own.

Six Degrees of Separation

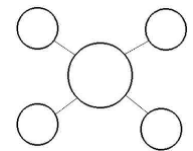
Ask students to find out how each is linked to every other student in the group. The solutions need to be posted and should look like this: Me > Jeffrey > Donna > Patricia > Hans > Sherry with an explanation of the connections. In finding the answers, participants have to interact and ask a lot of questions to each other. It may easily take a week. Shorter variation: ask students to find one or more others they have some kind of connection with.

Deep Questions

Encourage students to get to know each other by sharing answers to probing questions. Check out examples here: <https://museumhack.com/list-icebreakers-questions/>

Layers of My Cultural Self

This activity highlights the multiple dimensions of our identities, addresses the importance of self-definition, and challenges stereotypes. Have student place their name in the center circle to the right. Have them write an important aspect of their identity in each satellite circle, e.g.: Asian American, female, musician, athlete, Taoist, scientist, etc. Then ask students to do the following:



- Share a story about a time you were proud to identify yourself with one of the descriptors you used.
- Share a story about a time it was painful to be identified with one of your identifiers or descriptors.
- Name a stereotype associated with one of the groups with which you identify that is not consistent with who you are. Fill in the following sentence:
I am (a/an) _____ but I am NOT (a/an)_____.