

CHALLENGE

A Herff Jones Impact Resource For Students

November, 2003

NOVEMBER CHALLENGE: Mixers and Icebreakers



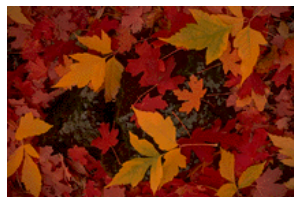
Student activities are more successful if each new group is introduced using mixers / icebreakers. Here are some examples.

MIX AND MATCH

Tell the students that you will call out a category and they are to run and organize the appropriate group. Be sure to count your group and adjust the numbers so that no one is left out. Tell them that when they hear a signal (whistle, lights turned out, cowbell, etc.) they are to stop and listen for the next command.

Here are some commands, but be creative and write more.

- ✓ Find a group of three people you don't already know
- ✓ Find a group of five people with one item of clothing the same color that you are wearing
- ✓ Find all of the people who have the same number of brothers and sisters you have
- ✓ Find all of the people who own the same number of tennis shoes that you own
- ✓ Find a group of four who have the same last digit in their phone number as you do
- ✓ Find a group of four who have had the same number of jobs
- ✓ Find a group of three all born during the same season or month (depends on the size of the group) as you were. (Give out the next information after the groups have formed) creatively form the letter (you pick one) using your bodies



HAPPY AUTUMN!!!

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE

Make sure that you have an odd number even if you have to play. Tell the students to gather in a large circle and get a partner. The partners face each other. The caller stands in the center and calls out body parts (elbow to knee, ear to foot, etc.) Players follow these directions matching body parts. After several matches the caller yells "People To People" which is the signal to scramble to find a new partner. The caller joins the scramble and there is a new caller.

BODY DOUBLE

Start with everyone in a large circle. Everyone needs a partner. The facilitator may need to play to make sure that no one is left out. The partners sit back to back on the ground and lock arms with each other. Ask them to attempt to stand up from that position. After everyone is successful in standing up, ask the following processing question: "What lessons can we apply from this exercise toward being successful?"

This newsletter is a joint effort of Jackie Burch and Herff Jones, Inc.

LAP SIT

Everyone is in a large circle (yes, this can be done successfully with large groups.) facing the same direction. Tell them to all lean back against each other at the same time and sit down on the lap of the person in back of them. To be successful they must concentrate and be fairly close together.

FOUR CORNERS

Have the students stand in the center of the room. Tell them that each corner of the room will be given a name (label) and that they will move to the corner that best represents the way that they feel about their school, their teachers, and fellow students.

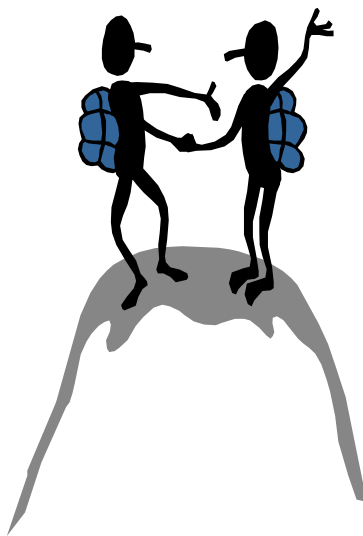
First, the school (point to each corner as you call out the names)- Is your school more like the OCEAN, the VALLEY, the DESERT, or the MOUNTAINS? Think for a moment and then go to the corner of the room that best describes your school. Motion to the corners and repeat the names. When you get into your groups, discuss with each other and find out why people chose this corner. Why do they feel that their school is like an OCEAN, VALLEY, DESERT, or MOUNTAIN? After two minutes or so ask several students in each group to share why they chose the particular label.



Second, the teachers- Do you feel that the teachers at your school are more like a FANCY CAR, an AIRPLANE, a FIRE TRUCK, or a LOCOMOTIVE of a TRAIN? Again, point at the corners and repeat. After discussion ask why a particular group was chosen.

Third, your fellow students- Do you feel that the students at your school are more like BUTTERFINGERS, SNICKERS, HERSHEY KISSES, or RED LICORICE? Point to the corners and repeat. Again have discussion and ask students to respond.

In this activity, be creative and change the questions and the labels. This also works great for faculty meetings.



A Tip For Preparing A Speech



When working on improving your eye contact one usually does not have the luxury of practicing with a live audience (beyond family members). As an alternative place large Post It notes with smiley faces on the backs of chairs and assemble them theatre-style. Practice looking directly at each Post It note for a few seconds as you rehearse. The trick is to speak to one Post It note at a time and not to always move on to the person right next to the one with whom you just spoke. This technique will help you practice pauses - which is helpful if you tend to speak too fast. For a variation, tie smiley face balloons to the chairs.



QUOTABLE QUOTE

"Say not always what you know, but always know what you say."

~ Claudius ~

