

Time: 45 minutes

Overview:

This is a quick introduction to get students into teams. These activities help students bond in teams and remind them that they can find ways to work together, even if they disagree about an idea, that it's pertinent to collaborate.

Objective:

Students will be able to form new teams and learn about common teammate traits through icebreakers.

Materials & Setup:

- Short stack of blank paper for 10 things in common activity
- For this and the rest of the unit, setup the desks in groups of 4 (or less).

Activity:

10 minutes: Randomly organize groups

- Let students first sit wherever they want
- Once students are seated, count off students in one table group as "1,2,3,4" then go to table 2, "5,6,1,2" then table 3 "3,4,5,6" etc. For example, if you'll have 6 groups then in this case, count in 6's.
- All students go to their new group. Then an ice breaker team question: share your commute to school. Who has the shortest commute and who has the longest commute? Begin sharing.

20 minutes: 10 things in common

Students in teams pair off, hand each pair a blank piece of paper while giving instructions:

- The pair begins after the teacher gives instructions, they have to find 10 things they have in common in 5 minutes. No cop-out ideas like "we have feet"
- They then have 5 minutes to share with their team. Then see if they came up with additional commonalities in the whole group.
- 10 minutes: Share with the class their commonalities. If it's possible, find one thing in common with the whole class.

10 minutes: A few of my favorite things

- Teams have to come up with their favorite things in common. The teams with the most number of items wins.
- The winner shares out their list to the class.

5 minutes: Closure

Remind students while it's easy to work together on things you have in common, is it always easy to work together when you disagree? How will your team help remind each other that you still will have things in common, even though you may disagree at other times.