

Ice-breakers

There are many ice-breaker exercises which help groups get to know each other quickly. Someone in your group might suggest a favourite. Otherwise try these. You might have time for more than one.

Three truths and one lie

Everyone tells three truths and one lie about themselves. Everyone else has to guess which is the lie. You can ask each other questions about the truths if you like.

This can be done orally, by writing, or in an online discussion list.

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What's our name? Logo? Slogan?

Adapted from Scannell E. & Newstrom J. *Still More Games Trainers Play* McGraw Hill NY.

This ice-breaker helps you develop working relationships before you do the academic tasks.

Steps

- Select a name which depicts the group and its task.
- Draw a graphic logo that will portray your mission.
- Write a slogan you could use to advertise your group.

Take it a step further —reflect on the process

1. How democratically do you think you worked together doing these steps, expressed as a mark from 1 (very poorly) to 5 (outstandingly well)?
2. How did you reach consensus? Did someone take charge and others fall silent? Did everyone contribute equally? Did everyone start out contributing then the more dominant personalities won out?
3. How do you want to continue your group work?
4. Have you set off on a positive note or do you need to make changes in how you work together right away?
5. What do you think your name, logo and slogan would show about the group to outsiders?

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Identification exercise

Adapted from Forbess-Greene (1983) *The Encyclopedia of Icebreakers* University Associates, Inc US

Group members share some important personal information that is revealed by the contents of their wallets, purses, handbags or briefcases.

Each person finds one item (or a few items) that shows something about themselves. The item/s are shown and the person says what it shows about them. Examples are: wallet photos, membership cards, money. The rest of the group can ask questions.