

TEACH OTHERS

Icebreaker Ideas

Icebreakers are a great way of getting people to know each other, feel part of the group, relax and prepare for learning. Here are some ideas to get you started.

1. INTRODUCE YOUR PARTNER

Participants find a partner they don't know or don't work with regularly.

- Post the questions and give them five minutes to answer.
- Bring the participants back together and ask each person to introduce his/her partner and share their answers.

2. COMMON GROUND

Participants form groups of four to five with people they do not know.

- Ask them to find three things they have in common and one thing that is unique about each of them.
- Encourage them to get beneath the surface to really find out about each other.
- After 10 minutes or so, each group and individual participant should introduce themselves and what they have in common, followed by what is unique about each of them.

Sample Questions

- What do you do?
- What interests you about the workshop topic?
- What would you most like to learn while you are here?

3. TOPIC WARMUP

To get warmed up, have people break up into groups of four. Here are examples for a workshop on committee building:

- Share the story of the best committee you ever worked with. What made it so great?
- What were things you did to make it work well?
- What's the biggest obstacle you face building a strong committee?
- Or, what's the most common mistake people make with leadership recruitment?



4. MEET AND GREET

Have people walk around the room greeting as many people as they can and answering facilitated questions.

- Participants should find and stand with a partner they do not know.
- Instruct them to spend three to five minutes each answering the question.
- Repeat this a few times to have the group mingle more.

5. UP-DOWNS

Call out different categories and have people stand when they hear something that applies to them. Examples:

- Seniority in union: less than five years, more than 10, more than 20, etc.
- Call out regions or states.
- Morning person or night owl?
- Eat healthier at home or on the road?

6. BINGO

Create a bingo card with information in each square that applies to one or more people,

- Participants are given cards and must find someone that fits the trait or experience listed to sign that square.
- Goal is to introduce yourself to as many people as possible and get BINGO before time runs out.

7. TIMELINE (HISTORY LESSON)

Ask participants to line up in order based on a question under time periods on the wall. Pick a few ideas and Have people introduce themselves. Examples:

- Line up by year (or decade) you joined the labor movement and discuss what got you involved.
- Line up by the number of days you traveled last month.
- Line up East to West by region or city (home or work).

Sample Questions for Meet and Greet

- What is an accomplishment you are proud of about your work?
- What was the best action you ever attended?
- Who is the person that influenced you to become an organizer?
- What's a piece of advice you wish someone had given you when you were a new organizer?

Ideas for Bingo Squares

- Born in the 1960s
- Work on X campaign
- Speaks three languages
- Born outside the United States
- Has been fired for organizing a union
- Has been arrested for civil disobedience