



Adapted by Gregory Peters, SF-CESS, 2005

Activity: Ice Breaker – Introductions

Materials:

- Polaroid® Camera and Film or Digital Camera – 1 photo per participant
- Art Supplies (markers, scissors, colored pencils, magazines, glue, paste, etc.) to decorate posters
- Construction Paper/ Poster Board
- Painters Tape/ Tacks to hang posters
- Sticky Notes (i.e. Post-Its®) and Pens

Directions:

1. At the start of a special workshop, class or meeting, facilitator reviews Polaroid Posters activity and takes a Polaroid photo of each group member and gives it to that group member. (If using digital pictures, either collect ahead of time or allow enough time to print them.)
2. Participants glue their Polaroid photos to a piece of construction paper.
3. Participants then decorate their Polaroid Posters in order both to personalize them (encourage creativity) and to convey key information when introducing themselves. Key information may include ANY of the following but at least should include key introduction information:
 - “What is your name?”
 - “Where do you go to school – what is your favorite subject?”
 - “Where do you work – what do you do there?”
 - “What are your hobbies?”
 - “What is an interesting fact about yourself that no one else in the room would know?”
 - “How did you get your name? What is the story behind your name?”
 - “What do you think is the role of student voice in school design and why?”
 - “Why are you here?”
 - “What are you passionate about?”
 - ... consider at least one personal, value-based question related to topic of the day’s work.
4. Depending on time, participants can introduce themselves and their posters to the group (or to another person who in turn will introduce that member to the whole group.)
5. After introductions, members hang their posters around the room.
6. Throughout the time together, encourage group members to capture positive and/ or important interactions with each other on sticky notes of appreciation and celebration and then place the notes on the recipient’s poster. (Signing a sticky note is optional.)
 - Sometimes it helps to secure time on the agenda for such reflections (i.e. along with end of day reflections/ evaluations)
 - Facilitators should consider issues of equity and safety (i.e. popularity, alienation, etc.) and be expected to participate and to coach others - when hearing appreciations – to capture the thought on a sticky note.

At the end of the day/ workshop, participants take their posters with them and can review the appreciations of others anytime they need a reminder or a boost! ☺