

Inquiring Minds

Type: <u> X </u> Introductory	<u> </u> Working	<u> </u> Closing	<u> </u> Game
Low Risk – Getting to know each other	Growing Risk – Personal awareness	Ending – Saying goodbye	Active Exercise – For group building and fun

Optimum Group Size: 10-100

Materials Needed: 1 small piece of paper (2 inches by 4 inches) for each participant
1 pen or pencil for each participant

Outline of Activity:

Have each person write one question on a piece of paper. The question must be one that is opened ended. In other words, it must not be one that can be answered “yes” or “no”. The question must also ask something about the person’s life rather than something trite such as, “What is your favorite food”

Some examples of the type of questions that could be asked are:

- What class do you enjoy the most in school? Why?
- What was a fun Saturday that you have had recently?
- If you could tell your parents anything you wanted, what would it be?

As you can see this type of question gives the person answering the question a chance to describe something about the way they live, feel, or think.

Once each person has written a question on their paper, you are ready to begin the activity. Have every one find a partner. The taller of the two people will ask the shorter person the question that they have written down, The person answering the question must talk for a minimum of thirty seconds and a maximum of sixty seconds. When he/she is finished answering, then they ask the taller of the two the question that they wrote down. After both people have finished answering a question, they exchange pieces of paper and find new partners.

They will now ask the question on the piece of paper that they received in the exchange. From now on each time they find a new partner, they will exchange pieces of paper and ask someone else’s question. Do not worry if the partner you chosen has already answered the question, it will be new to the person asking it. As the activity continues, each person will be asking someone else’s question. This will give them quite a variety of questions to answer without having to think up more than one question.

This may sound complicated, but in practice it becomes very easy. By not having to ask question that you created, you free the kids up from feeling so responsible for the question and they can spend their time concentrating on the answer rather than on what the other person thought of the question. If you have a really shy group, you can collect the questions from the kids before they even start. Then pass them back out to people at random. This way they won’t even have to ask their own question during the first round.

If you suspect that some of the group might write down inappropriate questions, you may want to circulate around the room before starting and glance at each question to check it out. If this is a major concern for you, then circulating around the room during question asking time will also cut down on inappropriate conversation.

This activity can be repeated a number of times during the year. It is especially good to use after school vacation or the addition of new members to your group. Some teachers have also used this process to review for a test. Then the questions center around the topic of the test rather than questions about the person.

Goal:

Becoming closer with group members.

How to Process:

How hard was it to create a question?

How did you feel about asking someone else's question?

How did you feel about the thirty to sixty second time limit? Too long, Too short?

Explain

Which question did you hear that was really interesting to you?

Is it important that we know about those people who are around us? Why or why not?

Source or Submitted by: Activities That Teach