

EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS OF GROUP ACTIVITIES

LINING UP BY BIRTHDAY USING NONVERBAL SIGNALS-

- * The students are actively involved in the exercise
- * Students practice nonverbal communication
- * Encourages interaction by many students
- * Activity is mathematical in nature (communicating numbers and order nonverbally)
- * It is challenging for the group
- * It is a social experience with a specific goal (to organize a group randomly)
- * The group follows a set of rules successfully
- * shows students that there are many ways to solve a problem
- * Encourages group cohesion
- * It is fun

PAIR SHARING-

- * The students are the focus of the activity, not the teacher
- * Creates the greatest level of student involvement
- * Half the students are using verbal skills and half are developing listening skills
- * Develops interpersonal skills
- * Encourages questioning
- * Develops public speaking skills
- * Develops writing skills
- * Helps students learn to paraphrase
- * Calls for memory by asking for report to the group
- * Students get to know a another student better
- * The class gets to hear about each member
- * It is a social experience with an academic goal
- * It is fun

FINDING THINGS IN COMMON-

- * Helps students find common interests
- * Fosters conversation among students
- * Helps break the ice in a non-threatening way
- * Sets a tone for additional discussion
- * Develops familiarity between students
- * Establishes a friendly atmosphere
- * Students work together on an informal assignment
- * Students develop public speaking skills by reporting back to the whole class

ROUND ROBIN DISCUSSION-

- * Encourages full participation
- * Demonstrates to students that their ideas are important
- * Helps students hear and consider many views
- * Establishes an atmosphere of equal participation
- * Helps students develop listening skills
- * Develops oral skills on an interpersonal level
- * Develops paraphrasing techniques
- * Report back encourages speech development
- * Brings out a substantial amount of information on the topic at hand
- * Builds writing skills

PERSONALIZING YOUR IDENTITY-

- * Provides an interesting ice-breaker for the group**
- * Asks people to think about themselves**
- * Has students consider what types of things they identify with**
- * Creates an expectation that the class**
- * Creates an expectation that the class will be interesting and challenging**
- * Provides an effective way to start a class**

GENERAL DISCUSSION-

- * Allows for a free flow of ideas and discussion**
- * Creates a basis for group processing**
- * Calls attention to the different approaches people use in a less formal group structure**
- * Builds social skills around listening and speaking**

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