



INTRODUCTION SPEED DATING



A CONNECTING EXERCISE

PURPOSE:

When the room is too big and the time too short to get all the way around the circle in a meaningful way.

EST. TIME:

10 minutes

TOPIC:

Connecting First

NOTES ON THIS RESOURCE:

Because connecting is so important to the creation of the dialogic classroom, students need to get to know one another. But sometimes the class is just too big and the time too short to ask a meaningful question all the way around the room.

Instead, make space for a few people to connect in a short amount of time and people will come away with a larger network, a sense that they are more deeply known, and a new curiosity about others.



DIRECTIONS

1. Get everybody standing.
2. Have people make pairs. If there is an odd number, make one group of three.
3. Introduce the questions and give the students a minute to reflect on them.
4. Explain that there will be three rounds—one for each question—and that the students will find a new partner for each question.
5. In pairs, students will have one minute each to answer a question.
6. Set a timer for two minutes, then have the students start talking.
7. When two minutes are up, instruct the students to each find a new partner to answer the second question.
8. Reset your timer. When two minutes are up, students find a new partner to answer the third question.
9. Ask for a few volunteers to note one or two things that they heard that most interested them.

Some Possible Questions

- What's one thing that you are newly in love with or passionate about—big or small?
- What is one thing you look forward to every week or every month?
- What is your earliest memory of what you wanted to be when you grow up? What do you want to be now?
- Other than “I have to,” why are you interested in taking this class?
- What is a book you are reading and what is a book you wish you were reading?
- What is one thing you don't have time to do that you wish you did have time for?