



## **Icebreaker: What Do We Have in Common?**

Learn about your new friends with this interactive icebreaker.

**Grade Range:** PreK to 8<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 15-20 min

**Synopsis:** Learn what commonalities exist between students and adopters with this simple interactive icebreaker

### **Materials:**

- Marker or other writing utensil
- Poster board or other paper

### **Instructions:**

1. Break into small groups of 4-6 (at least 1 adopter in each group).
2. Pass out poster board and marker to each group.
3. Set a timer for a defined amount of time (5-10 minutes).
4. Each group is to discuss what they all have in common and identify at least 5 commonalities.
  - a. Can be hobbies, music interests, favorite foods, family traditions, etc.
  - b. Should not be body parts, clothing or outwardly identifiable items.
  - c. The more unique the item is, the better.
5. Write your 5 commonalities on the poster board.
6. Take time to share out your items. This can be done by each group reading off their items and discussing how they came to identify that it was a commonality.
7. Make certain to point out the fact that no matter what you may think or know about others, we all will have something in common with one another.
8. Display the poster in the room after the activity is complete.

### **Tips:**

- For Pre-k through 1<sup>st</sup> grade, the adult in each small group should act a scribe and write down the items in common on the poster.
- For older classrooms 5-8<sup>th</sup> challenge the groups to not repeat any commonalities listed by other groups. This will help the conversation focus on more thoughtful items.
- Increase or decrease the number of items to identify depending on your groups' abilities and time allotment.
- Engage with your teacher to identify the make-up of the groups so that students who normally don't interact much, have an opportunity to connect in the same small group.
- This can also be used as an anti-bullying or bullying awareness activity.