

Circle of Affirmation

OBJECTIVE Icebreaker (will help the group get to know a bit more about each other in a fun, non-threatening way)

MATERIALS List of prompts for facilitator

TIME **Approx.** 10-25 minutes (with debrief)

GROUPS OF 10-50

PROCEDURES

A. Introduction

We're going to take a few minutes to get to know each other with a short activity.

B. Activity

1. Group stands in one large circle
2. Facilitator calls out a category, or descriptor of some sort. Everyone who belongs to that category walks to the middle of the circle, high-fives, and then goes back to their place.
3. Participants may pass at any time if they don't wish to acknowledge a certain group or category
4. If the category lends itself to specific examples, facilitator can say, "And name it." So when participants step to the middle, as an example, for "plays a sport," they might shout out "hockey!" or "Football" as they are high-fiving.
5. Play as long as the group is engaged.
6. Questions can all be superficial and/or silly, but can also go deeper and become more meaningful as time goes on.

C. Debrief

What did you learn in this activity?

How did it feel to step forward and acknowledge some of these things?

--were any of these things hard to admit to?

How do you feel about the group now that you know more things about them?

How might getting to know people better, help our group feel more comfortable, or be more successful?

How might you use this activity at your school or afterschool program?

D. Closing

Thank you for sharing a little bit of yourselves. I hope you learned some new things about people in the group and maybe you can catch up with them on break or at lunch and talk more about it, if you like.

E. Virtual Twist: Instead of moving to the center of the circle to acknowledge a group, have participants raise their hand.

Prompts

(Obviously you can create your own—and so can your youth!—but here’s a list to get you started...)

Consider yourself a Californian

Work with youth

Ever been to a YDN training

Ever facilitated a YDN training

You cook

Actively play a sport (name it!)

Dog owner (name)

Cat owner (name)

Parent (kids names)

Aunt/Uncle (niece/nephews names)

Grandparent (name your grandchildren)

Oldest child or Youngest child (which one?)

Middle child or only child (which one?)

Wearing pants today (yep)

Like cheap pizza (name the brand)

Believe in the Easter Bunny (just checking)

From out of town (where you from?)

Born in California (name the town)

Born outside of California (name the town, state)

Been to a foreign country

Ever dumped someone

Ever been dumped

Ever got hooked on a soap opera

Currently watch a reality show religiously (every week) (name it!)

Enjoy horror movies

Enjoy “chick flicks”

Enjoy Independent film (or “the cinema”!)

Consider yourself a _____

Also, once the game gets going, let the group generate their own prompts.