Ice Breaking Activities

1. Cinquain

Line1: one word to name the subject (in this case, your first name)	tree
Line 2: two words to describe yourself	tall, green
Line 3: three action words about yourself	growing, reaching, standing
Line 4: a four or five word phrase describing yourself (a thought, not a complete sentence)	a witness to the past
Line 5: one word that means the same thing as the first word, or a word that sums it all up.	future

2. What's the Link?
Have each participant to post 3 hyperlinks that would describe their profession or interest. Other members have to guess what this is. Participants are to be as creative and imaginative in their clues.[1]

3. Eight Nouns
Submit 8 nouns that describe you. Explain why you selected each one and how each fits you. [1]

4. What would they say?
Introduce yourself through the eyes of a pet (past or present) or a favorite animal (stuffed animals count too!) [1]

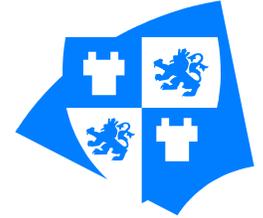## 5. If I were an animal….
My name is _____, and if I were an animal I'd be a _____ because….[2]

6. The Me Shield
    For this activity, have students design their own coat of arms or shield answering 4 of the following 7 questions:

    What are three things you are good at?
    What do you like most about your family?
    What do your friends like about you?
    What do you think you can do better than almost anyone else?
    What do you dream about doing one day?
    What is something you have already done that makes you feel really good?
    What is one thing you would like to change about yourself?

    Students can write their answers or use a combination of art and writing to express themselves. [2]

7. People Poems
    Have each student use the letters in his or her name to create an acrostic poem. For example, Bill could write
    Big
    Intelligent
    Laughing
    Loving.
    The poems should include words that tell something about the student -- for example, something they like to do or a personality or physical trait. [2]

8. What's in a Name?
    Have students look up the meaning of their name on web sites such as Baby Names and Origins (http://www.baby-names-meanings.com/) or Parenthood.com Baby Name Search (http://www.parenthood.com/babynames.html) Each student should write a page or so about whether or not the meaning of the name reflects his or her personality. [2]

9. **Color Jacuzzi:**
    Have everyone create their own personal rainbows using the following questions for each color:
    Red typically is the stop/turn- off color - what is the one thing (that they can disclose in public) that is really a turn off to them .
    Orange: is the motivation color - what motivates them
    Yellow: is the inspiration or creativity color - what was the best idea they've had
    Green: is the money color - what they plan to do for money, or the dumbest thing they ever did for money.
    Blue: is the sky's the limit color - what is your favorite fantasy about your future
    Indigo: is an odd, or different color - what is the most daring thing they ever did.
    Purple: is the color of royalty - if you were ruler of the universe for a day - what is the first thing you would do?[3]

10. First Job
    Have participants introduce themselves, sharing their name and something they learned on their first paying job. [4]

11. My Slogan
    Many companies have slogans or "mottoes" which reflect their values. For example, Ford Motor Company uses the slogan, 'Quality is Job One.' Ask each person to write (or borrow) a slogan to describe him or herself and share that with the class. [4]

12. Three Truths and a Lie
    Each student should write 4 statements about themselves: one of the statements should be false while 3 should be true. The goal is to fool people about which is the lie. The other students should try to guess which is the lie. [4]

13. Vacation Needs
    Ask the students to respond to these questions "Since this is summer time and we would most likely rather be on vacation, tell us the farthest distance you have traveled and where to on a vacation or a business-vacation?" and "Where would you like to go on a vacation right now if you could?" [5]

14. Miscomm-puter-unication

Ask the class to share their most embarrassing mishap using a computer, for example, replying to the wrong person in an email. This will loosen them up and cause a few to chuckle before we embark on a whole new way of thinking…using technology instead of paper and pen[5]

15. Memory Lane

Ask the students to list three major world events that happened the year in which they were born, then have the other members guess the year and post a short response on whether they remembered the events or had never heard of them[5]

16. Kiersey Temperament Sorter

This personality test is derived from a similar test called the Myers-Briggs Personality Inventory. Please post your result and respond to two others in the class, someone similar to you and someone with a completely different result. http://keirsey.com/ [5] or

Learning Styles. a Multiple Intelligence Inventory online that is offered free by the Learning Disabilities Resource Community. This inventory is free and is based on Gardner's work on multiple intelligences. http://www.ldrc.ca/projects/miinventory/miinventory.php#form The inventory should take 10-15 minutes and may provide some interesting insights. [5]

17. WHIPS:

Quick answers to incomplete sentences, such as:
"Right now I'm feeling…"
"Today I…"
"I wish..."
"The best part of the day..." [6]

18. The Magic Wand

You have just found a magic wand that allows you to make three changes. You can change anything you want. How would you change yourself, your job, or any other part of your life? Have students discuss why it is important to make the change. Another variation is to have students discuss what they would change in this classroom if they were the instructor. [7]

19. Self Advertisement

Ask students to design an ad for themselves as an introductory activity. The ad could be a poster/flyer (Word or PowerPoint document), a script for a 30-second radio or TV ad, or some other media relevant to your course.

You may want to give the students a target audience for their ads to facilitate the design. (For example, design an ad that will tell your fellow students why they should pick YOU to be in their groups; design an ad that will tell potential employers why they should hire YOU, etc.) [8]

20. Real Questions

Ask students to write 3 "real" questions you want to know when meeting someone (examples: are you a dog person? How do you spend your free time? What have you done that you're most proud of? Do you have a good recipe for_____that you're willing to share?) Students should answer at least 6 different questions posted by other students. [9]

21. Back in My Day

Ask students to share the following from their childhood.
Favorite toy or activity, favorite book or story, favorite tv show or movie, what they wanted to be when they grew up

22. Name That Movie

Ask each student if they were to write the score to the movie of their life, which two songs would they pick and why? Please pick one song that represents your life as a whole and another that gives a more recent picture. Their classmates should respond by suggesting a movie title along with an explanation. The student should select the title that would best fit and provide a short rationale. [10]

23. Lost in Space

Imagine you have been living on a space station for a period of one year. Suddenly the computers malfunction, and you have fifteen minutes to evacuate to a space shuttle before all life support systems fail. You will be allowed five items to take with you. As quickly as you can, list what 5 items you would take and explain why you chose each item. [10]

Resources

[1] Icebreaker Ideas Submitted by DEOS Members & SNHU Faculty
   Southern New Hampshire University
     http://acadweb.snhu.edu/DE/Goddard_Gretchen/icebreaker%20activities.htm

[2] Education World   Icebreaker Activities
     http://www.educationworld.com/back_to_school/index.shtml#icebreaker

[3] Idea Zone Ice Breakers and Warm Ups
     http://www.ideazone.com/IceBreakers_&_Warmups.html

[4] Results Through Training   www.RTTWorks.com   Icebreakers
     http://www.resultsthroughtraining.com/downloads/Icebreakers.HTML

[5] University of South Alabama
   Using Online Icebreakers to Promote Student/Teacher Interaction
     http://www.southalabama.edu/oll/jobaidsfall03/Icebreakers%20Online/icebreakerjobaid.htm

[6] The Leadership Center – Washington State University
     http://web.archive.org/web/20010503142710/http://cub.wsu.edu/Lead/IceBreakers.htm

[7] Big Dog's Leadership Training and Development Outline
   Icebreakers, Warm-up, Review, and Motivator Activities
   www.nwlink.com/~donclark/leader/icebreak.html

[8] Northwest Vista College – Distance Learning Faculty Resource Kit
     http://www.accd.edu/nvc/areas/disted/frk/sample_icebreakers.htm

[9] Booth, Nan. *75 Icebreakers for Great Gatherings : Everything You Need to Bring
       People Together.* St. Paul : Brighton Publications, 2000.

[10] Conrad, Rita-Marie, and J. Ana Donaldson. *Engaging the Online Learner.*
       San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2004.