

BINGO is my NAME-O!

It's the game of life! With prizes!

Description

This community-building exercise brings together the whole group to have a little fun at Zoom's expense. This game of BINGO will have as many winners as we can find prizes for (think 3-10 prizes).

Materials

Bingo cards and markers for each instructor. BVB will acquire materials. Develop a list of phrases like "I'm going to give you back XX minutes," "You are on mute!" "Actionable product," and "Let's circle up on that," that will work as the BINGO squares.

Activity

- Everyone gets a Zoom bingo card
- Throughout a call, look for the keywords or phrases to check off.
- Collect enough in a row and get a BINGO. Turn the card in to get your prize.

Outcome

A fun chance to come together in a mostly post-Zoom world. Sharing our experiences and having a willingness to poke fun at some of the challenges we have overcome. No real larger message than having some fun at Zoom's expense.

The Whole Gestalt

The group is greater than the sum of its parts

Description

The idea of this icebreaker is to get a group talking, particularly with a group that might be hesitant to share or is just getting to know each other. I would suggest this as the first icebreaker, as it has an easy entry point and allows everyone to participate in the group.

Materials

Index cards and pencils/pens

Activity

- Create groups of 4 to 5 people.
- Have them identify five things they have in common.
- And have them identify two things that are unique about each person in the group.
- Elect a group spokesperson to share their findings with the larger group.

Outcome

There is a great meta-message here that groups have a lot in common, but each of us has uniqueness that is important. Kind of a great way to start off the whole thing.

Lego My Meeting

Make it a game; Make it engaging

Description

This community-building exercise is best used when a central theme for the organization is being discussed. Think of larger concepts like “trust” or “respect.” There needs to be a singular concept for the room to rally behind. There is also an assignment of sorts that pushes creativity, problem solving, and sharing with others. Legos could be handed out at the start of a meeting, and the assignment given halfway through, giving people time to work on their masterpiece.

Materials

40 sets of Legos with identical pieces

Activity

- Everyone receives an individual Lego kit with the same 15-20 pieces.
- Have them build something that relates to the topic of the meeting.
- After the meeting, everyone has 30 seconds to describe what they built and how it relates to the topic of the meeting (and then return the Legos).

Outcome

This exercise does a lot. It gives participants some Legos to play with during a meeting. It helps them think creatively and outside the box. It encourages empathy and understanding for other staff members' creative ways of thinking. There is also the potential of using the example metaphors the staff created throughout the training, even in Lego form on a front desk.

A whole lotta questions

Let me ask you one more thing...

Description

This community-building exercise helps a team explore what is important to them in the workplace. By asking a future employee to make a job decision, we lean into the creative and boil it down to the core issues.

Materials

A set of note cards and pens/pencils

Activity Version 1

- Everyone receives a notecard and pen/pencil.
- You work at a fictional company and have to hire your next superstar.
- You can make this game silly or practical. For example, could hire for the intergalactic rebel alliance, be a judge on American Idol, or hire a zookeeper.
- You are only allowed one question. What would you ask?
- Collect the cards and read out loud.

Activity Version 2

- Everyone receives a notecard and pen/pencil.
- You have to hire the next person for your team.
- You are only allowed one question. What would you ask?
- Collect the cards and read out loud.

Activity Version 3

- Break into groups of 5, each group is given an index card and pen/pencil.
- You have to hire the next person for your team.
- You are only allowed to ask three questions a group, what would you ask?
- Have a spokesperson from each group read theirs at the end.

Outcome

Depending on which version you choose, this can be more thoughtful or silly and creative.

Object Lesson

Tell me all the things you can do with a...

Description

This problem-solving exercise helps the group come together and think outside of the box. An object is mentioned, and everyone must list all the things they can do with it.

Materials

A set of notecards and pens/pencils

Activity (part 1)

- Everyone receives a notecard and pen/pencil.
- Everyone sees the PowerPoint slide prompt for an object.
- Give 2 minutes to write down "all the things they can do with the object."
- The facilitator asks people to count up their items.
- The facilitator has everyone raise their hands who came up with at least five items, then ten, fifteen, and twenty. Over 20, ask how many they had.
- Discuss how people would do better if they knew this was a task of imagination (e.g., improving with practice, increased clarity with work goals equating with better performance).
- Discuss how people would do better if they took the first 30 seconds to make a plan on how to approach (make categories/buckets like color, shape, weight, size, quantity).

Activity (part 2)

- Everyone sees the PowerPoint slide prompt for a different object.
- Give 2 minutes to write down "all the things they can do with the object."
- See if there is an improvement.

Activity (part 3)

- Break them into groups of 5.
- Everyone sees the PowerPoint slide prompt for a different object.
- Give 2 minutes to write down "all the things they can do with the object."
- See if there is an improvement.

Outcome

Builds creativity, penetration testing, imagination, and problem-solving. Shows the power of planning and the use of the group.