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Engaging Icebreakers for Online or Face-to-Face Courses

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Engaging Icebreakers for Online or Face-to-Face Courses

Robin O’Callaghan
Winona State University
Minnesota Online Quality Initiative Co-Coordinator
Winona State University
Ice Breakers
75 e-Learning Activities
By Ryan Watkins
Ice Breakers

• **Keeping it Simple** - D2L Discussion Board with text and photo

• **A Picture Worth a Thousand Words** – Ask students to find a picture or pictures and post them in the discussion board that illustrate their interest, major, background, likes, dislikes..etc. Post a short paragraph explaining why they chose the images.
Let me Introduce You

David lives in Rochester with his wife and 3 cute and wild kids as well as five cats, but three of them are living in foster care with the Kveenes.

He works at Mayo Clinic in Rochester as a Health Unit Coordinator on the Cardiovascular & Transplant Intensive Care Unit and would like to use his HLA education to advance into the business-side of Mayo. David has attended WSU and Rochester in the past where he obtained his HUC Certificate and AA in Liberal Arts.

David doesn’t have cable so he doesn’t have a favorite TV show, but does enjoy watching football and tracking his fantasy football team. He enjoys watching movies from Netflix in his free time and is currently watching “World at War”, a British documentary about WWII on YouTube.

His goals for the HLA program are to learn leadership and communication skills that he can use to advance his career.

Lastly, David like to travel to National Parks. His favorite is Devil’s Tower National Monument, mostly because that part of the country is special to him having grown up in South Dakota near Mt. Rushmore.

Part 2
Textbook Reflections

- **Textbook**-Ask students to preview the textbook and discuss what they found interesting or how it might be relevant to the course or their career.
Tour My Favorite Website

I use this website for training and tips on reporting. They also list jobs in the journalism industry as well as agent names. Under Business they have excellent information about the trends in journalism, social media, hiring, firing and income. I use this website for training and tips on reporting. They also list jobs in the journalism industry as well as agent names. Under Business they have excellent information about the trends in journalism, social media, hiring, firing and income.

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YouTube Rock Star
Common Interest

Common Interest Ice Breakers

Let’s get to know each other a little better. Below you will find four different topics related to our course. Post two original responses and one response post.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Threads</th>
<th>Posts</th>
<th>Last Post</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I work as support staff at a hospital</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I work in medical research</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I work in the dental industry</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I work at a hospital</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>I work at in a clinic setting</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Before, After and During

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Threads</th>
<th>Posts</th>
<th>Last Post</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Skills</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Want to Learn...</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your Success</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please use this forum to introduce yourself to your classmates by answering each of the questions in the topics below. Next read 10 posts and respond to two people in each topic.

Hide Topics for Ice Breakers
Find Someone Who....

1. Each student send you an introduction.
2. Ask them to include one characteristic, experience or possession that others students might not know about.
Find Someone Who...

1. Next you randomly assign that information/characteristic to the students. Send the information via email.

2. Create a forum in which they have to discuss and determine who the information is about.
We took a few notes based on your videos to create a Wordle. A Wordle generates "word clouds" from text. Wordle takes the more common words used in the text you enter and makes them larger in the picture. To learn more check out Wordle.net. Here is a Wordle based on our course. It is interesting to note that Studies, Independent, Management, Mayo, Major and Career are all larger words.
How to Pin a Discussion Board

We took a few notes based on your videos to create a Wordle. A Wordle generates "word clouds" from text. Wordle takes the more common words used in the text you enter and makes them larger in the picture. To learn more check out Wordle.net. Here is a Wordle based on our course. It is interesting to note that Studies, Independent, Management, Mayo, Major and Career are all larger words.
Embedding Padlet Link
Embedding Padlet Link
Training and Support for Students
Screencast-o-matic

Download Info

Click here to download the software.

Training

Above is a link to video produced by Screen-O-Matic to show you how this product works.

Above is a YouTube video someone made that will give you an overview of Screen-O-Matic.
Several options for creating videos in YouTube

- Discussion Boards with YouTube Links to watch then respond via text/video
- Presentations with slide shows or PowerPoints
Multi Media Discussion Board

Multi-Media Post Student Introduction

Insert video/audio, pictures or link to YouTube
Best Practices

1. Keep it simple
2. Make it fun and be creative
3. Think about multi-media posts
4. Consider various types of Ice-breakers
5. Make sure to test
6. Consider your audience
7. Be aware of time constraints
8. Keep in mind technology requirements
Which one will you try....

1. Keeping it Simple
2. A Picture Worth a Thousand Words
3. Let me Introduce You
4. Textbook Reflection
5. Tour my Favorite Website
6. YouTube Rock Star
7. Common Interest
8. Before, After and During
9. Find Someone who....
10. Padlet