

2nd Annual Oregon Arts Education Congress Teambuilding Activity

Title of Activity
Personification Improvisation Introductions

Facilitator Name: Carin Rosenberg

Introduction: *2 -3 sentence overview of activity*

This activity utilizes improvisation as a tool for introducing a group of people to each other. It also teaches about personification by asking participants to bring an object to life.

Ideal group size for this activity

I've done this with a class of 25 students. If you do this with a large group, it is a good idea to structure in a break.

Age Range/Appropriateness

8 years old and up

1-3 Learning Outcomes *What will participants gain from the activity?*

Participants will practice personification by speaking as an object.

Participants will learn something about the people in their group.

Participants will learn about improvisation by participating in an improvised activity.

Materials needed: *if any*

Objects – At the Congress we grabbed everyday items from our pockets, purses, backpacks, etc. In my classroom, I have asked students to bring in an object that has meaning to them.

Different types of objects present different improvisational experiences.

Procedure:

1. Instruct participants to choose an object from their pockets, purses, backpacks, etc. It can be a very mundane everyday object or something special to them.
2. Discuss what it means to personify an object (*to attribute human nature or character to (an inanimate object or an abstraction, as in speech or writing)*)
3. Briefly discuss improvising (*to compose and perform or deliver without previous preparation; extemporize*)
4. Give these directions: Each of you is going to improvise speaking as your object (personify) and introduce something about yourself. So the challenge here is that the object is going to introduce you to the group. So for example if your object is a pen – then you'll be saying "I . . ." as the pen, not as yourself.
5. Model what you want the group to do, by giving them an example using your own object.
6. (Optional) Give a minute of practice or think time. This is not typical with improvisation activities, but I find that when working with adults this can be helpful.
7. Share in a circle. As the facilitator, give gentle reminders to the participants if they aren't speaking with an 'I' voice when they are personifying their object.

Opportunities to expand/follow-up questions: *if any*

One follow up could be to have everyone then take this activity to a writing activity, writing in the voice of the object. This works well if the object has special meaning to the participant.

Notes from the facilitator: *pitfalls to avoid, things to think about, lessons learned, etc. if any*