

2nd Annual Oregon Arts Education Congress Teambuilding Activity

Title of Activity
Connect The Dots Storytelling

Facilitator Name
Ellen Thomas

Introduction:
Everybody has a story to tell. Through stories, we connect to one another. By connecting together, we are able use common vocabulary and shared experience as the bases for collaborative learning.

Ideal group size for this activity
Open - Minimum of six recommended.

Age Range/Appropriateness
Grades 4 up.

1-3 Learning Outcomes *What will participants gain from the activity?*
Participants will learn to frame the beginning, middle and end of a story
Participants will draw from personal experience to develop story material
Participants will make an oral presentation to an audience in the form of a story

Materials needed: *if any*
None

Procedure:

We are going to go around the circle and build a story while introducing ourselves to the group. There's a trick to the assignment: You have to end your personal introduction with an "opening/connection" that will allow the person sitting next to you to pick up and build from the story as you leave off.

But first we have to do some research....

We're going to start by each of us talking to our neighbors (one at a time, please!) to figure out something you have in common that can be the transition point in the story we are building together.

We have one minute to find out something we have in common with the person to our right. Then we'll go to the left and take one minute to find out something we have in common with our other neighbor. I'll watch the time. By the way - you may want to jot down the ideas you come up with that connect the dots....

You've got one minute! Go! At the end of one minute, everyone switches.

At the end of the next minute you start the story and model the transition from the end of your introduction to the neighbor to your right...

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

The same approach can be used to explore and deliver curriculum content.

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

Help participants mine for story material by having them think about work, play, family, interests, dreams, fears, areas of expertise, favorites etc...