

For Staff: Group Activities for Youth

We Belong Here — An Activity Using “Becoming Americans Together”

Opening Activity - Diversity Bingo: 12 minutes

Prior to the workshop, copy and print the “Bingo Board” below. Pass out the Bingo Board handout and explain to the group that the purpose of this activity is to find out how diverse the group is and to see if group members might have something in common.

Group members will then move around the room for 10 minutes, talking to each other to find out who has the characteristics or talents listed on the handout. After 10 minutes have passed, invite group members to share the connections they made with others.

Gallery Walk: 15 minutes

Prior to the workshop, write and post the four chart papers for the Gallery Walk, using the bolded prompts below.

Divide group members into four groups. Have each group start at a different chart paper. Groups will spend two minutes at each chart paper, discussing and writing down responses to each prompt. When the facilitator calls time, each group will rotate one poster clockwise. Groups will respond to the prompt on their new chart paper and repeat until each group has had a chance to respond to each chart paper.

Chart paper prompts should read as follows:

- When I meet someone who is different from me, I...
- If you want to get to know me, ask me about...
- Being friends or going to school with people who are different from me helps me to...
- Meeting someone new is like...

Once groups have returned to their original chart paper, have groups read through all the comments and choose their favorite response.

Ask group members from each flip chart paper to share what they chose and why.

Read the Story: 20 minutes

As a group, read aloud “Becoming Americans Together” by Anonymous (p. 18), taking turns. Let teens pass if they don’t want to read. Ask the teens what the author learned from being in an International High School. [New languages, cultures, music, and food. That people are the same despite differences. That the U.S. has a history of racism and oppression.] Ask them to share something they learned from being in an unfamiliar setting.

B	I	N	G	O
Has lived in another state	Speaks two or more languages	Currently reading a book	Likes food from another culture	Has previously broken a bone
Has attended a music concert	Is a member of a sports team	Was born outside of the U.S.	Has no brothers or sisters	Plays a musical instrument
Has a family member or friend with a disability	Has traveled to another state	Ask someone to share an interest of theirs. Write it here: _____	Has a parent or grandparent who is from another country	Has performed on stage before
Has more than one race or culture in their family	Has read a book about a group of people different from themselves	Has a name with religious or cultural significance	Plays a musical instrument	Has traveled to another country
Celebrates holidays that are different from yours	Has lived outside of the U.S.	Has seen a foreign film	Is left-handed	Attended an event from another person’s culture