

ACTIVITY 7

Lines and Circles

Purpose: Learn each other's names and start to build a positive group culture where advisees practice collaboration and get to know one another.

APPROXIMATE TIME:

20 minutes

MATERIALS: NONE

ADVISOR NOTES:

1. Choose "Get to Know You" Activities with Care

Name games can be anxiety-producing for many students, especially games that put them on the spot to think of something clever, require them to remember and recall new information, or involve a coordination challenge such as catching a ball. When meeting a new group of peers, what many adolescents desire most is to fit in and not stand out by saying or doing the "wrong" thing. For this reason, we recommend that you choose get-to-know-you activities that are fun, low-threat, low-vulnerability, and don't require any special knowledge or skill, while at the same time providing opportunities for students to meet each other in pairs and small groups. In these less threatening situations, your advisees will be more likely to engage in authentic and meaningful conversations, while at the same time retaining what they are learning about their peers.

2. Similarities with Activity 11: Birthday Line-Up

One instruction commonly used with "Lines and Circles" is for students to line up according to their birthdays. That particular instruction is not included in this activity because it is used in the "Birthday Line-Up" activity later in this section, to help the advisory group discuss the routines it will establish to celebrate special life events and achievements.

PROCEDURE:

1. Explain How the Game Works

- After clearing a space in the center of the room, ask advisees to stand together in the center. Tell them that without talking, making noise, or writing, they need to line up or form small groups based on the instructions you provide.
- After the group is in a line or small groups, they can break their silence and introduce themselves to the people around them.

2. Play the Game

- Give the instruction for the first round, and remind advisees that they need to complete the task while remaining silent. Once they are in their lines, they can

break their silence and introduce themselves to the person next to them (have someone at one end start the pairings). If they realize they have made a mistake in the order, they should rearrange themselves.

- Line up in alphabetical order by first name.
 - Line up in alphabetical order by last name.
 - Line up by shoe size from smallest to largest.
- Then have advisees form groups based on the following categories. Remind them that they need to remain silent while completing the task. Once they are in their groups, they can break their silence and introduce themselves, as well as share something about themselves related to the topic. For example, for favorite food, they might talk about their favorite brand of this food item or recipe or restaurant.
 - Get into groups by favorite food.
 - Get into groups by favorite game or sport to watch or play.
 - Get into groups by favorite school subject.

3. Debrief the Activity

- Have the group sit in a circle and discuss the following questions together:
 - Who discovered something surprising about a group member? Let's hear a few.
 - Who discovered something you have in common with a group member? Let's hear a few.
 - How did it feel to have to complete a task without being able to communicate? What does this activity suggest about communication in our advisory group?