

Networking activity

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Materials needed: none

Learning challenge addressed/predictable outcome: in-class collaboration, community building

Best used for: Face-to-Face courses

Learning objectives/ skills fostered:

- Improving public speaking skills
- Extending thinking by sharing what they're thinking
- Developing workplace skills

What to do/ How to do it:

1. Explain the basics of networking. Provide students with a definition and some basic rules. *Networking is an activity to create and foster relationships for mutual benefit.* Some of the basics of networking that you want to share are:
 - a. Don't start the conversation by asking for contact information but be sure to leave with a card or email.
 - b. Try to make a meaningful connection by finding a shared interest (examples: old cars, scrapbooking, films, an author)
 - c. Listen to what others have to say and ask questions
2. Have students divide into pairs, give them one of the following scenarios, and have them practice what they learned.
 - a. You are at a wedding and you just realized a person at the table works for the company you want to work for
 - b. You are at an academic conference and the speaker teaches at the university you are considering for grad school
 - c. You are at a career fair at the booth of your desired employer
 - d. You are in class and a fellow student had a summer internship at your desired place of employment.
3. Students should take turns being the professional or the student.
4. End the class with a reflection. What were some good questions other asked? When did you feel the most comfortable? Where are good places to network?

Tips for implementing:

Students should develop a list of their resources. They have a hard time identifying the members of their religious congregation, neighbors or fellow students as part of their network. Helpful books and links: <http://www.wikihow.com/Network>; "Networking for People Who Hate Networking: A Field Guide for Introverts, the Overwhelmed, and the Underconnected"; "Business Networking: How to Build an Awesome Professional Network: Strategies and Tactics to Meet and Build Relationships with Successful People"