

PAIRED INTERVIEWS

MATERIALS |

paper and writing utensils

OBJECTIVES | The objectives of this activity are for participants to learn more about the lives and backgrounds of others, to practice deep listening, and to build meaningful relationships with each other.

FACILITATOR INSTRUCTIONS |

Tell participants they will have five minutes to interview another person in the group. At the end of the interview, the interviewer will introduce their partner to a larger group using information they gained in their interview as the foundation.

Give participants a few minutes to come up with interview questions they would like to ask their partner. Questions can be about anything so long as they are kind and will not intentionally make others feel bad. Some things to consider:

- Would this question be harder to answer if you had more or less money than others?
- Would this question be harder to answer if you had a different family structure than others?
- Would this question be harder to answer if you had a disability?
- Would it be harder to answer if you had a different kind of housing than others?
- What kinds of questions would *you* like to answer?

Decide as a group on how participants can respond if they do not want to answer a question posed by their interviewer.

Divide participants into pairs and give each participant five minutes to interview their partner for a total of 10 minutes of conversation. Interviewers may want to take notes about their interviewee's answers.

Depending on the size of the group, each person should then introduce their partner either to (a) the entire group or (b) to another interview team for a total group of 4 participants.

DEBRIEF QUESTIONS |

- How did it feel to do this activity? Did you feel worried, nervous, excited?
- How did it feel to have someone else introduce you?
- What is something you learned about your classmates that will help you support them this year?

NOTES |

This activity may not be appropriate for groups in which participants cannot write.

ALTERNATIVE: Come up with a list of questions as a group that everyone will answer.



SUPPORTING MEDIA |

<https://www.michiganlearning.org/sharing-who-we-are/>