

OBJECTIVE

Students will build relationships, get to know each other, and make connections over Zoom. Start a meeting with laughter!

MATERIALS

A list of 3–8 discovery questions. Use the questions below to get started, then create your own. You will also need a Zoom account with breakout room ability.

INSTRUCTIONS

Please see the Restorative Teaching Tools YouTube Channel for a video demonstration of these instructions.

While the group is all together in the video chat, explain the instructions. Participants will be sent into breakout rooms in groups of four people. Once there, they will see a question appear through the broadcast feature. Each of the four people will answer the question. When a new question appears, they will all answer that question as well. Let them know how many questions total to expect. After all of the questions have been posed and participants have had time to share their answers, the game facilitator will send a "one minute left" warning before bringing everyone back to the main group.

After explaining the activity and answering any questions, use the breakout rooms feature in Zoom to divide participants into group of four. Send the participants into their groups and then use the broadcast feature to send a question to all participants in their breakout rooms. The question will disappear after not too long, so you may want to send the question more than once. Give them approximately 2-4 minutes to answer each question (depending on how much explanation a response requires) before sending the next question. When you broadcast the discovery question, indicate how long the group has for everyone to share their answer, i.e.: "Who has had the most unusual pet? (3 min)"

After all questions have been posed and you've issued the "one minute left" warning, bring everyone back to the main group by ending the breakout rooms. Use the debrief questions below to encourage participants to share some of what they learned about each other with the larger group.

Example Discovery Questions:

- Who has had the most unusual pet?
- Who has the most interesting family tradition?
- Who has traveled on the coolest form of transportation?
- Who has the most interesting hobby?
- Who has had the weirdest job?
- Who has had the best 1 minute of fame?
- Who has gotten in the most trouble at school?
- Who has had the best adventure in the last month?

DEBRIEF

What is one new or interesting thing you learned about someone else? What is a connection you found with another person? What did you learn through this activity that relates to restorative practices?

LESSON

Making connections is extremely important when you are facilitating difficult or high-stakes conversations. Realize that each one of us has unique stories and by surfacing these experiences, you can ease tension and help people feel connected.