

Possibilities!

Icebreaker - Electronic Business Card

Students create virtual business cards and post them to a discussion board forum so they can introduce themselves to classmates. Provide the following instructions:

Business cards are an important part of our workplace identity. Because we are meeting virtually, we cannot exchange cards, shake hands, and go through traditional meet-and-greet activities; but we can exchange “virtual business cards” by posting them in a discussion forum. First, create your card. It should contain a few simple text lines that tell us your name, title, employer, e-mail address, and a brief statement about your particular expertise. For example, John Doe, Lead Trainer XYZ Corporation, jdoe@xyz.com, “E-learning Delivery Expert”. If time and resources allow, you can create a graphic card but remember, text is fine. When your card is completed, post the text or attach the graphic file to the discussion board forum. Look over the cards of fellow classmates and add appropriate introductory remarks to their e-cards.

Icebreaker – First Job

Create a discussion forum that asks students to: *Tell us about your first job, other than babysitting. Where did you work? What did you do? What did you learn from this experience? Add links that relate to your first job.*

Then follow with...*How did your first job lead you to what you are doing today? How did this first experience affect your future career?*

Icebreaker – Picture This!

Have students post a favorite photo with the class by posting to the discussion board. Students should provide some background information and share why it is their favorite.

Defining Excellence

Select a topic that represents the essence of your course. Create a forum in the discussion board with the following instructions (this could also be done in groups): *Here we will create a personal definition of excellence in terms of (topic). First think about what excellent (topic) means to you personally. Then post a list of several characteristics that come to mind. Finally, locate at least three web-based resources that demonstrate the excellent qualities you have listed. These could be links to organizations, websites, articles, products or services. Post the URL for the link next to the characteristic.*

True or False

In the discussion board, each student posts a content-related statement. Other students must decide whether the statement is true or false and post web links or references to course material and textbook to back up their decisions. Create a discussion board with the following instructions: *Post a statement about an aspect of our course material. Your statement can be either true or false and should require a bit of research to determine its accuracy. Next, review the statements posted by your fellow classmates and take a guess as to whether you think their statements are true or false. Back up your guess with references from your course material, textbook or an online source. Check your statement frequently and when someone guesses correctly, post a reply to their thread to let them know they are correct. Keep making guesses until all questions have been answered correctly.*

Evaluation: Recognize those students who make the most correct guesses. This could also be varied with having the student post three statements, one is true, two are false.

Who Am I?

Send each student an email to assign a secret theorist or leader that pertains to your course (great for history instruction). Then create a discussion forum in the discussion board that instructs learners to post clues about their identity. Provide the following directions in your email: *This is a sample role play exercise where each of you will take on a role of a prominent leader that pertains to our course. Your assigned leader is (name of role to play). Be sure to keep your assignment secret from your classmates as they will be attempting to guess your identity in the next part of the exercise*

Go to the discussion forum where I have posted the following question for you to answer (This should be a general, open-ended question relating to your course content such as "How might we motivate our employees?" or "How might we increase sales?"). Please respond to the question "in role" or as your assigned leader might respond. To do this well, you must research the ideals and principles held by your leader so you can provide realistic and specific answers containing subtle hints of your identity.

Come back to the boards later in the week, when everyone has had a chance to respond, and add postings to each class member's response to attempt to guess the identities.

Interactive Stories

Post an opening scene related to course topics in the discussion forum. Based upon the provided scenario, students would add related choices to the forum. For example, a story about a disgruntled worker could offer several choices...filing a grievance with the

union, going to the supervisor and asking for support, or starting a petition and getting signatures from fifty workers. Instruct students to select a choice and write the scene that might follow if the main character were to choose that course of action. You can continue to add choices to each course of action, weaving an intricate story.

All activities were adapted from Kathleen Iverson's *E-Learning Games* (2005), published by Pearson Prentice Hall.