

Five Fun First-Week Icebreakers

1. Throw Down

Give each student 10-20 pieces of paper (or one piece of paper torn into 10-20 pieces). Have everyone sit in a circle. Each person says something interesting about themselves. If anyone else has that in common, they throw down their piece of paper in the middle of the circle. The goal is to be the last person with papers still in hand.

2. Crossword Names

Have a student write their name in capital letters in the middle of a piece of paper. Then invite the students to walk around the room inviting others to add their names as branches out from their own name just like a crossword puzzle.

3. Blanket Name Game

Divide the class into two teams and have them sit on opposite sides of the room. Have one student from each team hold a blanket up as a divider between the two teams. Each team quietly selects a member of their team to stand closest to the blanket facing the other team. The teams try to guess who is behind the curtain. The team that guesses the name of the person behind the blanket wins.

4. Circle Pass

Have the students stand in a circle joining hands. In between two of the students place a hula hoop. Have the students pass the hula hoop around the circle without letting go. Time them and challenge them to beat their time each try. To help learn names, have each student say their name or something interesting about themselves as they pass the hula hoop.

5. World Link

Have the students sit in a circle. Give the first person a word of your choosing (i.e. yellow). That student repeats the word and adds another one (i.e. yellow banana). The next person in the circle repeats the new word and adds another (i.e. banana bread). Give the group ten seconds and see how many word links they can amake.
