

# Inspire! Ice Breakers & Openers



## Activity: Finding Differences

### Overview

"Finding Differences" is an amusing get-to-know-you activity. Participants quickly interview one another, trying to find things they **don't** share in common. Through exploration people learn about each other, share interesting facts about themselves, and end up discovering many more things in common.

### Props

- None.

### Instructions

- Group members are tasked to find people with whom they share nothing or little in common. This tactic reduces the likelihood of friends jumping into a dyad with each other.
- Players interview one another looking for as many differences as possible before they must change partners.
- Players ask each other questions, sharing personal tastes and views on any topic that comes to mind.
- Switch partners numerous times to ensure many connections, and be mindful to provide sufficient sharing time for both partners before making switch.
- Participants should match-up with new people, particularly people whom they do not know. Again, you are trying to increase the connectedness among the group, not reinforce the cliques in which people commonly and comfortably find themselves when they join a new group.
- After sufficient sharing, ask the group members what differences and similarities they discovered most often.
- Ask questions like: Do you feel as if you know each other better than before and in what way do you believe stronger connections were made? How will this new information affect your relationship with this person? In what ways did these disclosures make you curious and interested in learning more about another person?

### Safety

Although the term "interview" is used to describe the sharing sessions, it is by no means a "grill session" or interrogation. Encourage group members to respect those who may not feel comfortable sharing in depth. Players should not be pressured, only challenged to try something new and let someone in. Remind players that they may share as much personal information with which they are comfortable, and not to take the activity too seriously. The activity is intended to be a fun experience that allows participants an opportunity to learn things about each other.

### Variations

Instead of finding differences through questioning one another, ask group members to share their "30-second life story." When participants partner-up, they condense their life history into 30 seconds. Each participant takes a turn to share and then finds a new partner. Or, for culminating experience, ask group members to find one thing they all have in common.