



TLC STRATEGY

Community building: Introduce your partner

Purpose: A simple, brief activity that fosters building background knowledge about all participants.

Steps

1. *Set-up:* participants sit in a circle (no tables)
 2. *Time to complete:* 15 minutes, plus a minute or two per participant
 3. Everyone finds a partner whom they have not met before, or don't know very well. They interview each other for 10 minutes (5 minutes per person), not about their work or school, but about other interests important to them. Where are they from? Who is their family? What are their favorite activities and why?
Participants may not take notes. Emphasis is on listening.
 4. The group gathers again in a circle, and one person stands behind their partner with their hands on the partner's shoulders. Standing so, the first person introduces their partner to the group, including the things they most remember about the interview. Repeat until everyone has been introduced.
 5. Reflection: Invite participants to reflect on how this activity may be used in the classroom with English language learners. How does it encourage language development?
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