

Icebreakers

There are some suggestions in the agendas. There are also some examples in the CPM texts. You can use any of them or some of the following. You might need to model some of these.

You could have the participants ***Interview*** each other asking their name, school, what classes they will teach and one word that describes them or their teaching. (Similar to FFA 1-AR1 or FFA 2-GO 1) They can then introduce their partner to the rest of their team or to the whole group.

You could do ***Compromise***: Working alone each participant writes 2-3 of their favorite books, movies and games. Then the teams compromise on a team favorite from each category.

You could do ***Concentric Circles***: Have one participant per team draw 2 concentric circles on a piece of paper. The large circle should fill the page and the smaller circle about 2 inches in radius smaller. Divide the 'donut' part only into as many equal parts as there are members of the team. Each person claims a part, writing their name outside that section. Find something unique about each participant and write it in their section. When each person has something written, then find something that the whole team has in common-not that they are all math teachers-and write it in the 'hole' part. Continue this unique and common traits for several rounds.

You could do ***Two True, One False***. Each person writes 3 statements about themselves on an index card. Two are true statements and one is false, in random order. The participant reads their statements to the members of the team. They try to figure out which statement is false. Each person on the team takes a turn reading their statements.

Participant Scavenger Hunt or Bingo is another idea. Give participants a list of characteristics and they have to find someone in the group for whom the statement is true. The person signs off on the statement that is true about them. They may only sign once per sheet. Ideas could be; knows Pythagorean Theorem (must write it down), can find the area of a trapezoid with bases of 5 and 9 and height of 4 (must show answer), knows what 'factorial' means (they write the definition) or it could be non math related; has traveled to Italy, knows a foreign language...

Symbolically Speaking has the participants draw a symbol of their lives on their nametag or nameplate. Then they have to explain their symbol to their group.

ABCs has participants as a team finding a math word that starts with each of the letters of the alphabet in a specified amount of time.

Let Me Introduce Myself has the participants take a piece of paper and sculpt, scrunch, or remodel it into a shape that describes them or what they like to do. For example a speaker could shape it into a microphone. Someone who perceives themselves as smart could shape a tack.

Advertise Yourself asks the participants to write an ad or a headline about themselves and then share it with their team.

You could make cards or postits with **Math Terms** on them. Each term is put on the back of each participant as they come in without them knowing what their term is. They walk around for five minutes asking each other questions as they try to determine what their term is.

Uniquely You has participants write down an experience that they think will be unique to them. Then they take turns reading them to each other to see if someone truly does have a unique experience.

For **Geographically Speaking** have a map of the US on the overhead projector. Then have the participants move to the approximate location, according to the map, where they were born. Have them introduce themselves to the person closest to them. Then have them move to the approximate location of where they attended college and then introduce themselves to the closest person and so on.

You need to have 4-5 props or 4-5 math terms for **I Am Like A...** The participant then picks a prop or math term and describes why they are like that prop.

Have a copy of a footprint for each participant. The participants will then put their name and three characteristics (your choice) on the 'soles.' For example, on the toe they put the number of years teaching. On the heel they put their favorite subject they have taught. On the arch they put the name of the state where they graduated. Then they have to find their **Solemate**.

Perfect Class has the participants pick 3 people living or not, that they would like to have in their class. Then they have to explain to their group why for each one.

Alliterative Names asks the participants to introduce themselves with an alliterative word for their name (first or last) that describes themselves.

Resources: Energizers and Other Cooperative Activities by Carol Apacki, Sharing Your Good Ideas by Peggy Sharp, What's This? By Jim Craighen and Chris Ward, many Kagan books

	Movie	Beverage	Country	Mathematician
M				
A				
T				
H				

The team must fill in as many boxes as possible in 5 minutes.

Scrambled Sentences is where you have one word on each card. Place words in envelopes as follows: #1 Spring begun eager me

#2 here blinded The dogs reading

3 start The to have

#4 sunlight barking I'm is

The team then must collaborate and have each member end up with a meaningful sentence. They may exchange cards, but no one can speak. They may not take a card. They must wait until it is offered. Point out that the first word of each sentence is capitalized as a hint. *Answers:* Spring is here. The sunlight blinded me. The dogs have begun barking. I'm eager to start reading.