Dynamic, Active Learning Activities for Classrooms
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Name of Activity: Common Ground

Tagline description of what the activity looks like:
Everyone thinks they are different and not like everyone else. This activity shows students that they share more than they think with their classmates, creating an atmosphere of acceptance. This is a wonderful activity for the first days of school or to use with an advisory group.

Objective:
To help students learn things about their fellow classmates building a common ground and acceptance of other people that they didn't know they shared things in common with.

Materials Needed:
None

Step-by-Step Procedure:

1. Students are instructed to group themselves around the room according to the answer to the questions.
2. The challenge is to do it without speaking or writing.
3. After each question, ask the follow-up question to a random student or two. Try asking students to reflect with someone else in the group.
4. Ask student to create and write down a grouping question to follow-up with.
5. Reflection: Ask students to go back to their seats and write a reflection about what the learned from this activity and what surprised them most.

Group Questions (these are just examples, feel free to create your own)

Group by your birth month
Follow-up: Share with one person what your best birthday memory was.

Group which birth order you are born in: oldest, youngest, middle child
Follow-up: Share with one person what you hate/love about your birth order.

Group in which family group you are: only child, one sibling, two siblings, three siblings. . .
Follow-up: Find out who in the group has the most siblings, ask them their ages.

Group by where you live: country, neighborhood, condo/apartment
Follow-up: Share with one person what an advantage is to living there.

Group by how many instruments you can play: 0, 1, 2, 3,
Follow-up: Ask a random person what they play, find out who taught them to play.

Group by how many states/countries you have lived in: 1, 2, 3, 4. . .
Follow-up: Ask if anyone has lived out of the country.

Group by how many pets you have: 0,1,2,3. . .
Follow-up: Ask the person with the most pets to tell about them.

Group by how many languages you speak: 0,1,2,3. . .

Follow-up: Ask someone to say hello and goodbye in the language they know.

Group by how many different oceans you have been to: 0,1,2,3. . .

Follow-up: Share with one person which ocean you have been to (if any).

Group by eye color: Blue, brown, green, hazel

Follow-up: Does anyone have different colored eyes?