

Name Web

Time: 10–20 min

Purpose: To learn by practicing other participants' names and to demonstrate the interconnectedness of a group.

Skills: Cooperation, Coordination, Listening

You will need...



- 4-30 participants
- Early elementary age participants or older
- Ball of yarn or string
- Enough space for all participants to form a circle

Before You Begin



- Prepare the reflection questions you will ask participants in the debrief.

Directions

Introduce the activity Name Web. Use this time to reinforce any established expectations that are important for participants to remember during the activity.

Direct participants to sit in a large circle.

Explain that the group will be unwinding a ball of string by passing it back and forth across the circle.

Explain that when participants receive the ball of string they will introduce themselves by saying their name and one fact about themselves.

Tell participants to say the name of the person to whom they are passing the ball of string to practice each other's names and so the receiver is prepared to catch the ball.



Tip: It may be helpful to give participants a few examples of what they could share about themselves, like: "My favorite color is...", "My favorite food is...", or "My favorite book is..."

Explain that once participants have received the string and introduced themselves they will pass the string on to another participant in the circle.

Remind participants to keep hold of a portion of the string so a web is formed in the middle of the circle.

Tell participants to avoid passing the string to the participant directly next to them to ensure a web is formed in the circle.

Ask participants if they have any questions about the activity.

DIRECTIONS CONTINUED



Begin the activity by introducing yourself with your name and a fact, and passing the string across the circle.

The activity ends when everyone has been introduced and shared a fact about themselves and a web has been formed in the middle of the circle. Explain to participants that now they will reflect on how they experienced the activity.

Debrief

Debrief the activity with participants. Remember, this activity is only as effective as your debrief. This is your opportunity to help participants connect the activity to personal experiences, actions, and beliefs. You will want to reinforce any skills or beliefs you are hoping participants will carry beyond the activity.

For more on facilitating debriefs, refer to the [Debriefing Tip Sheet](#) on our Digital Activity Center.

We've included some suggested questions below to get you started.



Tip: Consider having participants continue to hold the string during the debrief as it may help to highlight the concept of interconnectedness.

Ask:

What happened during the activity?

What happened if someone pulled on his/her part of the string?

What does this have to do with our actions in the community?

Thank participants for taking part in the activity.

Variations

This is another stand-alone version of this activity.

- Instead of framing this activity as a way to get to know each other better, this activity can be done so participants focus on sharing their feelings. Tell participants to say their name and how they are feeling currently as they unravel the ball by passing it across the circle. In this variation, this activity works well as an opening/closing ritual for participants.