



## ICEBREAKER

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# SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

*Build camaraderie and familiarity among students through a discussion of things they do and do not have in common.*

**Time needed** 10-15 minutes

**Materials** You will need paper and pencil or Powerpoint slide for each group. The paper or slide should be divided in half – one half labeled “Similarities” and the other “Differences”

## Steps

1. Split up the group into small groups of 3-4. Give each group a piece of paper or a slide on a Powerpoint divided into “Similarities” and a “Differences” sections.
2. Each group should work together to list as many similarities that every member shares and the differences that apply to only one group member as they can in the allotted time frame, approximately 5-7 minutes.
3. Once the small groups are finished, bring groups together to share some of the more notable similarities and differences they found in their groups.

The large group discussion should take around 3-5 minutes, and the activity leader could even challenge the students to come up with a few similarities that apply to the entire group before moving into the main lesson.

## Helpful Hints

You may want to prepare and provide younger students with a list of prompts such as “favorite school subject” or “sports you play” to facilitate the discussion.

To connect the icebreaker to a main activity, try adding STEM-related prompts that encourage participant to think about their experiences with science, technology, and math. Including prompts can help to engage students who are more shy or to combat awkward silence.

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*This icebreaker was created by 2020 EngineerGirl Ambassadors Danielle Sutterlin, Jewel Levy, Christina Lee, Ananya Tadigadapa*