**Connecting with Youth: Icebreakers and Reflections**

Presenters: Gary Glasenapp and Candi Scott

The Research Institute at Western Oregon University

The content in these lists was generated by four groups of session participants at the

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**What Helps Us Learn**

* Positive, safe environment
* Visuals
* Visual and physical examples
* Kinesthetic/doing
* Auditory with visuals
* Hands-on activities
* Teaching others
* Application
* Feedback
* Stories/experiences
* Demonstration/modeling
* Repetition
* Patient instructors
* Talking through problems
* Talking about what I’m learning
* Writing/drawing about what I’m learning
* Feeling supported
* Comfortable space
* Routines
* Use of technology
* Games
* Fun/humor
* Sitting in the back
* Sitting in the front

**Icebreakers**

* Ask students: what is your dream car?
* Tell the person next to you one thing you want them to know about you
* Share what grade you’re in and some of your favorite activities
* Tell your elbow partner what we learned last time in your own words
* Riddles
* Two Truths & a Lie
* Ask students what activities they like to do after school
* 3 x 5 card questions/mix up and read (youth guess who said which answers)
* Beach Ball (questions written on ball already; youth answer question facing them when they catch the ball)
* Name and food favorites repeat game (“She is Sarah, and she likes hot dogs, he is Miguel, and he likes fish sticks, and I am Joe, and I like pizza”, etc.)

**Reflections**

* Ask students to share why they are taking the class
* Share their “hopes and fears” about taking drivers’ ed
* Share one thing you “got”, one thing you’re not sure of but you think you get, and one thing you need more help to understand better
* Good habits and bad habits: how did you develop them?
* “Today’s take-away”
* Yarn sharing (making a web from yarn as participants take turns responding to guided questions)
* Free write/finish these sentences: “Traffic laws and regulations \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.” “Driving is mainly mental because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.” “The consequences of careless driving are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”
* What do you do if you’re at a 4-way stop with others?
* What have you observed this week which demonstrates unsafe driving?
* Reflecting on short videos (such as Mr. Wheeler)
* Thumbs up, sideways, or down to indicate how things went/how you’re feeling
* Rate 1-5 (show on your fingers)

**Other Connections**

* Before students come or when you first call roll, ask them which name they prefer to be called and for the correct pronunciation of their names
* Remember students’ names and hobbies/interests
* Share your own experiences related to driving topics/content
* Send a weekly email with information about the upcoming class
* Play music (find out what students like and/or introduce some of your favorite music)
* Use varied seating charts (to ensure students can get to know each other)
* Play “fill in the missing letter games” (such as Hangman or Wheel of Fortune) using driving terms or phrases
* Keep it simple (break down into smaller steps)
* Talk with parents, especially after the students drive