

Getting together



Purpose

This is a good way to get delegates into teams/groups without using the same 'well known' and 'well used' approaches. It also acts an ice breaker in that, it is highly likely that delegates will not end up sitting next to their preferred colleagues when this method is used. By sitting next to people they don't know as well, delegates are more likely to start a conversation that will aid relationship building.

Timings

10 minutes (although this can be increased in necessary).

Trainers note

You will need a pack of playing cards. You need to have the same number of cards as there will be delegates. If you have decided that you want people in groups of four, for example, then the cards that are laid face down must be able to be split easily into four categories. i.e. four aces, or four kings or four cards of each suit etc.



Instructions

To form multiple groups (4 delegates in each).

- Have a set of playing cards on a table faced downwards so delegates cannot see what suit or what value the card is.
- As delegates arrive at the event/course/meeting (or when you wish to put them into groups at any stage during the event), ask them to pick up a card and keep hold of it.
- When you are ready, ask all delegates to pair up with those other delegates that have the same cards as themselves – all aces together, or all threes together or all clubs/hearts/diamonds together etc.
- You have the flexibility to choose how you want the cards to work for you, simply vary it to suit yourself. (e.g. you may then wish to run one of the specific icebreaker activities such as Desert Island, I'm Unique etc)

To form two groups

- The principle is exactly the same as above.
- Have the same number of cards as there are delegates.
- Make sure there is the same number of even and odd numbered cards.
- Ask delegates to pick a card and hold on to it.
- Then ask all the even numbered cards to form one group and all the odd numbered cards to form the other group.
- Again you can vary this activity. You might decide to group all the red cards together to form one group and all the black cards together to form another group etc.