ICEBREAKER IDEAS

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Each student prepares a two-minute presentation that introduces him/her to the class. Students can include pictures or keepsakes if they want. Encourage them to be creative.

TOILET TISSUE: Tell students to take a length of tissue. Only after everyone has taken some, tell the class that they have to tell one fact about him/her for each panel of tissue he/she has. A variation of this would be to use M&M's or Skittles candy. You can specify what type of information the students should give for each color of candy (e.g., tell an embarrassing moment for red, a positive attribute for yellow, etc.)

COMIC STRIP CHAOS: Each student takes a turn at picking a comic frame out of a large container. After the entire group has each chosen one, the students begin to search for others with the same comic strip sequence. After the students have found everyone in their group, they must arrange themselves so that the sequence of frames is in chronological order to form the comic strip correctly. Upon completion of sequence, the newly formed group sits down together. This is also a great game to break a large group into smaller groups.

HUMAN SCAVENGER HUNT: Give students a page with a series of descriptions on it. Students are required to find a student who matches each description. They must have that person sign his/her name next to the appropriate statement. The object is to meet as many people as they can, and complete as many items as possible in the allotted time. Each student can only be used once on the page. Sample descriptions are as follows:

- From a northern state
- Can play a musical instrument
- Played a sport in high school
- Has traveled outside the United States
- Has two or more siblings
- Is wearing contact lenses
- Has a pet
- Born the same month as you
- Is a vegetarian
- Speaks more than one language
- Does volunteer work
- Loves math
- Played in the high school marching band
- Has met someone famous
- Has blue eyes
- Grew up in Lexington
- Has a family member who attended UK
- Lives in a UK residence hall
- Is a member of a sorority or fraternity
TWO TRUE, ONE FALSE: Go around the class and have each student make three statements about him/herself. Two of the statements should be true and one false. The rest of the group has to guess which one is false.

INTRODUCE ANOTHER: Divide the class into pairs. Each person talks about him/herself to the other. You can also give specific instructions on what to share; for example, have each person tell the one thing he or she is particularly proud of or something interesting that happened over the summer. After a few minutes, the participants introduce the other person to the rest of the class.

FIND SOMEONE: Each person writes on a blank index card one to three statements, such as favorite color, interest, hobby, or vacation destination. Distribute cards so everyone gets someone else's card. Have each person find the person with his/her card and introduce themselves.

FAMOUS PERSON: Make stickers with the names of famous people or places and put one on each student’s back. Give students time to walk around and ask other students yes or no questions to help them guess the name on the sticker. Before asking “yes or no” questions, students should introduce themselves.

INTRODUCTIONS: Have students introduce themselves to the rest of the class by saying their name and a descriptive word that begins with the first letter of their name. Students could also make an acronym out of their name using descriptive words. (E.g., A-awesome, M-mischievous, Y-youthful)

QUESTIONS: Place questions written on folded sheets of paper in a bowl. (Students can either each write a question, or instructor can write them before class.) Ask students to draw a question and answer it for the class. Sample questions include:

- If you could vacation anywhere in the world, where would it be?
- If you could participate in any sport in the Olympics, what would it be?
- If there was a fire in your home, assuming your family and pets were out of danger, what is the one object you would save?
- What would you do if you won a million dollars?
- If you could have dinner with any person in history, who would it be?

You can also use fewer questions and have each student answer the same question.

MAP: Place a large map of the United States at the front of the room. Ask each student to come to the map one at a time, and place a thumbtack on the map near where he/she is from and tell the class one interesting fact about his/her hometown.