

Common Ground Circles

Grades 6–8 • 15 min • 12+ students

WHAT YOU NEED

- None

SETUP

Arrange desks or chairs (or just floor space) into two circles, one inside the other, facing each other in pairs.

HOW TO RUN IT

1. Split the class in half. The inner circle faces out, the outer circle faces in, so everyone has a partner.
2. Give a prompt ("find one thing you both like," "find a place you've both been," "find a subject you both find hard"). Pairs have 90 seconds to find something in common.
3. Call time. The outer circle rotates one spot to the right, everyone has a new partner, and you give a new prompt.
4. After 5–6 rotations, ask a few volunteers to share the most surprising thing in common they found.

VARIATIONS

- For a class that already knows each other, raise the difficulty: "find something in common that isn't about school or this class."
- Works just as well as a mid-semester reset as it does on day one.