

Autobiographical Museum Piece

This is a great way for students to get to know each other and also express their own unique personality. This works best when students have a few days to work on their museum pieces. You also need to be able to set up the pieces without students seeing which one belongs to whom, so you will need to create a way for students to get them to you or set them up in the room when others are not present. You will want to allow at least 30 minutes for students to view the pieces and guess who they belong to. You should also allow 5 minutes per person for each person to talk about their piece and what is important to them.

Create a sheet that has a number for each person in the group and make copies for everyone in the group. When the pieces come in, put a post-it note on it with a number. Then give each person a sheet and have them write the name of the person to whom they believe that corresponding piece belongs.

Offer a prize for the person who gets the most correct.

Finally, make sure you create an environment where everyone is heard and respected while sharing their piece. People often share important and deep aspects of themselves through this exercise.

To be given to participants...

Instructions:

We want to have an opportunity to get to know everyone in the group. As a result, we would like you to create something that describes you, and explains what is most important to you and/or what has helped shape who you are. You can include your lifestyle, interests, hobbies, loves, hates, etc. You can use whatever media you have at your disposal (really, you can be as creative as you want...). The entries will be displayed during our time together, and everyone will have the opportunity to guess which entry belongs to whom. Each of you will reveal your own masterpiece and explain what it means to the rest of the group in a 3-5 minute time period.

Here are some guidelines for designing your piece:

- (1) FLAT articles are limited to 2' by 3' (that's feet, not inches)
- (2) NON-FLAT articles are limited to something that one person can easily carry
- (3) Try to avoid obscure things about you that no one could ever figure out
- (4) Because people will be trying to figure out who you are, DO NOT put your name or pictures of you in your present state in your piece
- (5) Artistic ability is NOT a prerequisite
- (6) Please keep the cost of your art (materials and asking price) minimal

- (7) Bring your piece covered in a sheet or plastic bag so that no one can see it.
- (8) Remember, your only true limitation is your imagination!