

Supervisors Handbook

Icebreaking Exercise – Wednesday 14th March - 09h30 -10h30

Brainstorming with a Peanut

Resources:

- Peanuts in their shells (real or fake);
- A4 white papers
- Pens
- Timer

Duration: 30-40 minutes

Rules:

For the first half of the exercise, have the students do the brainstorming individually. Set the timer for 3-5 minutes and challenge them to come up with 10 answers before the time is up. The first question is, "How is this this peanut like me?" Half way through the time, remind them that they should have at least 5 answers. Remind the students that they can be wild and crazy and come up with unusual answers. Challenge them to use their imagination.

At the end of the time allowed, ask them to place an asterisk (*) next to their best items. Ask for volunteers to share their best answers.

Here are some answers that have been given in the past:

How is this peanut like me?

It is wrinkled, like me.

It is brown, like me.

It cracks under pressure.

What you see is not always what you get.

Everyone is different.

It just sits in class.

You can find both of us at ballgames.

I can make any sandwich delicious.

For the second half of the exercise, do the brainstorming as a group and have students call out as many ideas as possible in 5 minutes. Pose the question, "How is this peanut like going to college?" and ask for answers from the class as a whole. Remind students that they

can steal other's ideas, add to them or change them around. For a warm-up, share some of these ideas:

How is this peanut like going to university?

Here are some answers that have been given in the past:

It's rough.

There are 2 nuts inside; one is the teacher and the other is the student.

We're all nuts to a degree.

Some professors are nuts.

We both went to _____'s class today.

College drives me nuts.

A bag of peanuts is like a room full of students, all different shapes and sizes and not anyone is the same.

The college professor is the peanut farmer and the student is the peanut. A good farmer makes for good peanuts.

Sometimes a class is not all it's cracked up to be.

You have to pay for peanuts, just like you have to pay for college (only peanuts are way cheaper!)

The instructor is the farmer and the students are the peanuts.

The first step in cracking a peanut is cracking the shell. The first step in college success is cracking a book.

A peanut can be used for many things such as peanut butter or peanut oil. College helps use to develop our skills to prepare for a variety of careers.

After the brainstorming exercise, go over the other ways to cultivate creativity:

Serendipity

Relaxed attention

Idea Files

Visualization

Journal

Critical Thinking

Reading