



Icebreaker

Icebreakers: What Are They and Why Do We Do Them?

In any social situation, people need to become familiar with each other in order to communicate, learn, and of course, collaborate. This is also called building rapport. Successful COIL encounters begin with a foundation of social presence, which is established by engaging students in icebreaker activities.

Often in professional situations, such as networking, it is often challenging to begin the rapport-building process. We wonder how to begin a conversation, what to ask about and how to make an appropriate connection before jumping into a business discussion. We have found in these interactions that it is useful to find a way to establish something in common, such as hobbies, interests, etc. To help you connect/build rapport with your new colleagues in this COIL - we've designed the introduction conversations around spices.

Social Presence

Global learning develops a global perspective, the ability to understand and connect diverse perspectives on the world. This begins with students feeling comfortable sharing their own points of view as members of the online community, a phenomenon known as [social presence](#). You know you've established social presence online when you have the sensation of 'being with' and interacting with someone in another place. A great way to establish social presence among strangers quickly is through icebreaker activities.

Preparation for Activity

Before starting, watch this 2 minute video - to see how long sports have been around. (Click on image and a link to watch video will pop up).



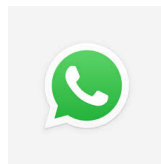
To help you begin to build rapport with your new collaborators in this session, we have designed a “recipe” for interaction - sports and fitness is a global and historical phenomenon and something that almost everyone has some awareness of. This can help determine how much we know or don't know about other countries/cultures through the lens of international sports/fitness?

We are excited to get started and see your videos/presentations!

Activity instructions

Where in the World is your Sport?

Introduce us to a unique sports/recreation tradition unique to your home country/culture. You will then submit this video (1-3 minute) or PPT (minimum 5 slides) to the WhatsApp platform: (click the image to join the group).



When creating your video, think of answering the following questions:

1. Describe a traditional/unique/historical sport or recreation activity from your home country/culture. Please do **not** choose any sports that everybody would know i.e. soccer, basketball, football, baseball, etc...

2. Design a video/PPT that highlights your activity, with the following info:

- Describe it activity and its history
- Describe why you chose it
- Include your institution's name (UI-Galway or FIU) within the title along with your name
- Submit a copy of your presentation/video to your own institution for grading