**Ice Breakers: Getting to Know One Another**

Ice breakers are a fun way to get to know your students and for your students to introduce themselves to each other. They also are a good way to build classroom culture. When picking an ice breaker to play, it is important to figure out how well the students know each other already. It’s possible that they’ve been in school together for a long time or this particular class may be a new grouping of students who don’t know each other very well. Ice breakers are a good way to build a positive classroom culture no matter how well the students know one another. Here are some examples of ice breakers you can use:

**Virtual Classroom Ice Breakers**

Ice breakers can also be played in a virtual classroom setting. These ice breakers can also be related to the transition topic being discussed. This information will help instructors learn more about students’ goals for after high school. Below are some examples of how to get introduced to your students virtually.

* Kahoot: <https://kahoot.com/>
  + A resource that allows you to create engaging and interactive games
  + Questions are displayed on a shared screen while students answer on their personal devices
  + To use this as an ice breaker, create multiple choice questions so that students can select the answer choice that applies most to themselves
  + Once everyone has answered the question, a graph will pop up showing the distribution of the responses among the class
* Poll Everywhere: https://www.polleverywhere.com/
  + Similar to Kahoot, Poll Everywhere allows you to create a question or prompt and students use a code to respond on their own devices
  + Polls can be in the form of written questions or graphics
  + Students can either submit their response with their name or anonymously
  + To use this for an ice breaker, create poll questions about student preferences and see answers to questions in real time
* Flipgrid: https://info.flipgrid.com/
  + A platform that allows you to create a question or prompt and students respond with a short video clip
  + To use this as an ice breaker, ask students to introduce themselves with a list of prompts and questions
  + The student will record a video of themselves responding to each of the prompts and questions
* Padlet: https://padlet.com/
  + An online resource that is described as an “online notice board”
  + Instructors can pose questions on the board and students can post “notes” that can contain links, videos, images, and written descriptions
  + To use this as an ice breaker, you can post basic introductory questions and students can respond using any of the media types listed above

For additional resources on engaging virtual instruction tools: <https://transitiontn.org/vr/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Resources-for-Engaging-Instruction-.pdf>