

LIFELINE

Icebreaker: "getting to know you" activity for the first week (or two) of the COR101 class

LIFELINE gives students the opportunity to talk in small groups about some important events, people, decisions, etc. in their life. They will typically include information about their schooling, their family (moves, divorces, interests, etc). Some will share crises or problems.

PREPARATION: The teacher should prepare his/her LIFELINE before class and present it to the class first. Students will generally follow this model and if the teacher shares some difficult times, they are more likely to. Encourage students to be creative with the markers: Lifelines don't have to be linear.

MATERIALS: big newsprint (one per student), magic markers, tape.

LENGTH: 40 minutes to more than an hour.

1. Teacher does his/her LIFELINE.
2. Give out paper and markers.
3. Divide students into small groups of 4 or 5 each.
4. Give students 15 minutes or so to do their lifeline (this is definitely a floor activity). Some groups may have to use the hallway.
5. Students then share their lifelines in the small-groups. Some groups take very little time. If you have extra time: you may want to get volunteers who would share their lifelines with the whole class.
6. You can add discussion tasks (put on board): How do their lives differ? How have their lives been similar?
7. Get students to tape their lifelines around the room and let them circulate.

Variations: let them take the markers and paper home and do the Lifelines there. This encourages more elaborate drawings. LIFELINE can also be a good end-of activity. Ask them to do a LIFELINE for their first semester.