

## Activity

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### Coffee Break(er)

#### Purpose:

This **introductory** activity can be used to facilitate introductions and to prompt welcoming conversations.

#### Activity Goals:

- To meet others in the course and build community.
- To discover shared practices and culture.
- To share stories.
- To approach course content (if applicable).

#### Prompts for Coffee Break(er):

- Was coffee or tea part of your family's daily life when you were growing up (even if you didn't partake because you were a kid)?
- How do you drink coffee or tea now? What role does coffee or tea play in your daily life? Is there a specific space, circumstance, or reason for when and how you drink coffee or tea?
- Does it have any cultural or historical meaning? Have you observed or participated in coffee or tea drinking in another country, culture, or community?
- Is there a story, memory, or experience related to your beverage preference that you would like to share?
- Additional Prompts for course-specific content, if applicable (for example, questions related to economics, industry, marketing/communication, geography, equity, food production, etc.)

#### Usage:

- **General:** Icebreaker-type activity in the first week of the course; possibly also mid-semester when students are a bit more stressed or after returning from a mid-semester break.
- **In-person courses:** Create small groups (3-5 students) and have students take turns answering the prompts in whatever way they want. Make sure everyone gets a chance to talk in small groups. Approximately 5-10 minutes. After small group, have groups report to the class some common themes or connections they identified.
- **Distance Education courses:** In synchronous modalities, use breakout rooms for small group portions. In asynchronous, convert into a Discussion Board with each student posting their responses and then replying to 1-2 peers.

**Activity Inspired by these Resources:**

Caines, A. & Prusko, P. "[Pass the Ball and How Do You Make Rice?](#)", Equity Unbound at OneHE

Spry, A. (2021), [The #ricebreaker: Facilitating intercultural dialogues in the classroom by engaging shared experiences](#), *Journal of Political Science Education* 19(2).

For more information or to discuss how you might incorporate these ideas into your courses, contact the Reinert Center by [email](#) or submit a [consultation request form](#).