Activity

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


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.