

Standing Poll

Goal

To introduce the group to generational differences and similarities in a manner that is fun and energizing.

Instructions

1. Instruct the participants to form a single file line so that they are standing shoulder to shoulder.
2. Read off questions one at a time, alternating between "olders" and "youngers".
3. For each "yes" answer "olders" should take one step backwards and "youngers" should take one step forward.
4. For each "no" answer participants do not move.
5. After about 10-12 questions, ask the group to look around at where everyone is standing. (There should be quite a bit of space between "olders" and "youngers".)
6. Proceed to the questions for both groups.
7. For each "yes" answer all participants, "olders" and "youngers", should take one step closer to toward the center line.
8. After everyone is back on the center line, ask the group to look around again and see where people are standing.
9. Return to seats, proceed to discussion questions.

Activity Questions

"Olders"

- In school during the civil rights movement of the 60's?
- Know who Dobie Gillis is?
- Listened to bands with "Pink" or "Purple" in the band name?
- Alive when Truman was president?
- Remember the Olympics before snowboarding was an event?
- Recall Floods of '93?
- Remember the "Gripper"?
- Remember life before the internet?
- Remember when businesses were closed on Sunday?
- In school during the gas wars of the '70's?

"Youngers"

- Wear distressed jeans?
- Grew up watching Veggie Tales?
- Listened to hip hop music?
- Get most of your news and information on line?
- Have used a cell phone for a major portion of your life?
- Text message friends?
- Download music from interent?
- Know what "cheat codes" are for games?
- Use FaceBook or MySpace?
- Bill Clinton is the first President you can remember?



Both

- Know someone who's fought in Iraq?
- Floated on a river in Missouri?
- Use email frequently?
- Lived in an era when flare or bell bottom jeans were in style?
- Contributed something to the hurricane relief effort?
- Played a role in a fundraiser such as a bake sale or car wash?
- Care about your community?
- Been to Bass Pro in SW Missouri?
- Visited the Gateway Arch?
- Believed youth and adults can work together?
- Think Extension does great programs in your country?
- Have ideas for how to make your community better?
- Believe creativity and innovation is essential for communities today?

Reflection Questions

1. What did you see during this activity?
2. What did you observe other people saying and/or doing?
3. How did it make you feel?
4. What can you apply from this activity when working in mixed age groups?