**COIL Icebreakers**

**Video Introductions**

(1) Create a [Video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kh3b7h7o4aQ&feature=youtu.be) of yourself speaking in the language of your COIL partners.

Each student needs to answer each question personally.

Each student needs to comment on each other's response.

Click on the Facebook Comment bubble below.

What do you do for fun?

What stresses you out?

What is “the good life”?

What is most important?

(2) Create a 2 minute video of yourself to upload to COIL Facebook Group.  Address the following items -

Share something about yourself; the best place to visit in your city and why; the best place to eat in your city and why; then comment on 3 student’s posts and ask at least one student a question.

**Introduce Yourself via a Blog Post**

Please use this blog space to post an introduction that includes:

* Your name
* Where you live (rural area, town, city)
* What you’re studying in college
* Your career aspirations
* One question you have about each other’s countries

Post a picture of one or more of the following:

* + Favorite quote or saying
	+ Favorite place to visit/vacation
	+ Favorite food/cuisine
	+ Favorite work of art
	+ Favorite book
	+ Favorite movie or theatrical production
	+ Favorite hobby/sport and/or other pastime

Describe and share what makes your favorite meaningful to you.

Please read and respond to at least 4 of your (local and international) class colleagues’ introductions by:

* Sharing commonalities and/or differences
* Asking questions

 **Name Game**

Write your name in a creative way or draw a picture of your name or create a photo of your name. Post to the class website.

Briefly answer the following questions below your posted name:

1. Why were you given that name?
2. Is it linked to another person in the family? How?
3. What are the naming conventions in your family? Is that convention related to your cultural background?
4. What does your name mean?
5. Do you like your name?
6. If you could rename yourself, would you?
7. Do you think your name affects the way people interact with you?

Respond with questions or observations to two of your COIL classmates.

**Draw and Explain Your Family Tree**

A family tree is a way to show your family heritage and who is related to whom. In the United States there are many online services that will help us learn who is in our family tree. For this exercise, please share a diagram of your family (whether as a tree or something else.)

1. Draw a picture of your family going back to your great grandparents. Clearly label your picture or diagram with your family member’s names and who they are (e.g. mom, dad, grandfather, etc.)
2. Post their pictures to the course website (e.g., Blackboard, Facebook, etc.)
3. Each student must respond to at least two other classmate’s pictures, asking questions or making observations.

**A World of Pictures Activity**

Part 1 - Choose a Theme

Choose a theme that highlights cultural differences such as food, interior design, magazine ads, transportation modes, health and wellness, public art, etc.

Part 2 - Find an Image

Have students find an image that is relevant to the topic.

Part 3 - Post the Image

Students should post the image to a social media site.

Part 4 - Post a Short Story

Students should tell a short story explaining why they chose their image.  Stories may be limited to “twitter” length if wished.

Part 5 - Judge the Results

Students should have some means to judge the submissions and pick the best.