



Collaborative Online International Learning

SUNY COIL Center

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COIL icebreakers

A day in my life

Students take photos or short videos and compile them into an introductory video that shows their typical day. This might include their typical commute (in a bus? By bike? Walking?), meals, friends, pets, their job, where they live, sports, nature, their university - whatever they want to show. The video should be no more than 2-3 minutes long. Students watch each other's videos in small groups and ask questions, react, discuss.

What do you do in your free time?

This can be done synchronously or asynchronously. Students can start by posting some things they do in their free time such as recreation, jobs, family, friends, volunteer activities. You can either have them talk about these activities in small groups, or students can find people with similar interests/activities and ask them questions to see how these things are similar or different.

Words and Pictures

This activity can combine synchronous and asynchronous collaboration. Assign students on both sides of the collaboration to small groups within their own domestic cohort and ask them to create a list of 4-5 words. These can be general ideas (*happy-sad-excited-funny*) or they can be related to your discipline/collaboration theme (a list of words related to health care, leadership, community, biology, etc). Have the small teams find or create pictures/images that represent those words to them. Have the teams send their list of words (they shouldn't share the images yet!) to a team on the other side of the collaboration and ask that team to find or create pictures/images for the shared list of words. Once all of the images have been selected, have the teams post them in a shared space (Padlet, an LMS discussion thread, etc.) and discuss or comment on the images that each team selected. What are the similarities, differences in the selections? What is surprising to the students about the images their international teams selected? Why did students pick particular images?