

Intended for Grades: 4-12 **Estimated Time:** 5 -10 minutes

Lesson Title: COMMON GROUND (Activity; icebreaker)

Lesson Purpose: Students will learn what group members have in common.

Materials & Preparation:

- * Write a relevant list of “stand up if you...” prompting statements. Gear them to help build group identify through common interests, practices, and beliefs, as well as respect and appreciation for individual differences.
- * Make sure you have adequate space, in or out of the classroom.

Background Information:

This is a rapid-fire, short activity geared to build understanding about each other. The teacher shares prompts and students move to show a yes response.

When you prepare a list of prompting statements, consider your student’s demographics (i.e. age & age appropriate interests, communities where they grew up, etc.). Create a list of what students might share in common as well as what might be uniquely different. Consider having a few students help create this list.

Steps:

1. Introduce the activity by discussing purpose as well as how to participate: Students can respond with a “Yes” by doing one of the following:
 - a. stand up
 - b. stand in a circle and move forward
 - c. hold up & wave their hands
 - d. any other creative way you want them to respond “yes”
2. A student or the teacher then rapidly reads each prompt, reminding the group to sit, move back, or lower their arms after each question. Encourage students to pay attention to how they feel and how others feel when they are both part of the group, and *not* part of the group.

Reflection Questions:

- * What did you learn from this activity? What did you feel?
- * How might this experience influence how you interact with others?

Resources:

The following list of prompts was used with 9th grade Kailua High students during their 1st day orientation:

SAMPLE SENSE OF PLACE PROMPTS

- * Stand if you went to Blanche Pope, Keolu, or Kailua Elementary school; Kailua or Waimanalo Intermediate (feeder schools to Kailua High)
- * Stand if you went to a middle/intermediate school not mentioned. (*Ask each student where they went to honor all schools.*)
- * Stand if you grew up on the Windward side.
- * ...If you grew up in town (ask others where they grew up)

- * ...If you grew up on a neighbor island (*ask which island*)
- * ...if you grew up on the mainland (*ask what state*)
- * ...in another country. (*ask what country*)

SAMPLE INTEREST PROMPTS:

- *... Stand if you love to surf
 - *...if you paddle
 - *...if you love to shop
 - *...If you love going to the beach
 - *...If you play a musical instrument
 - *...If you love to play sports
- (For last few questions, pick ones that most students will share in common.)*
- *...If you love to watch sports
 - *...if watch YouTube videos
 - *...if you have a Facebook page
 - *...if you are happy about graduating from Intermediate school
 - *...if you are both nervous and excited about being a 9th grade Kailua High student

Note: Ending with a few prompts that most will respond “yes” to closes this activity in a positive and connected way.