

Title: Personal Object Icebreaker

Goals: (1) Students become familiar with each other, and, therefore, more likely to feel comfortable speaking in class (2) Students develop an understanding of their classmates' identities

Description: I ask my students to take out an object (artifact) from their bag or wallet and use it to explain how it represents them as an individual or as a member of their cultural group.

One thing I also do for students who are stuck is to share my own objects. Sometimes it might be a keychain or even the key for my car, or my necklace which has a charm on it. I don't want to give too much help that might replace their own ability to think through what works for them.

Variation: Have students do this in pairs or groups and report to the class their partners' object and how it represents them or their cultural group.

Challenges: Some students may not have a representative object. In this situation, I allow students to take out a photo, either print or digital, if they have one which serves the same purpose.

Participant Level: WC; GR; P

Prep Time: S

Class Time: M

When: B

Submitted by:

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Code Legend:

Participant Level: **WC** (Whole Class); **GR** (Groups); **P** (Pairs); **I** (Individual Students)

Prep / Class / Results Analysis Time: **S** (Short); **M** (Medium); **L** (Long)

When to Use During Semester: **B** (Beginning); **M** (Middle); **E** (End); **A** (Any time)