Session Openers and Icebreakers

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| Topic facts/quotes in a whip around format | Find your match relating to topic (parts of quotes, opposites, famous pairs) | Participants are all given a penny and share the significance of that year in their lives. |
| A short attention-grabbing video is shown and participants react to it and connect it to the topic | Did you know? Facts/pieces of data on cards that participants share with each other | Participants are each given one letter card that spells out the topic or theme and are asked to share an idea that comes to mind related to the topic |
| Graffiti Gallery Walk: Ideas are posted around the room and participants write responses/ideas on each. Then, groups process what was added to each poster | Dot voting: Participants leave colored dots on charts around the room indicating their level of comfort, their opinions, etc. | Participants create a visual that represents their thinking/prior knowledge about the topic  |
| Participants share prior knowledge by completing a graphic organizer around the topic | Six Degrees of Separation: Using a map (of either the state, US or the World) participants interview each other and find out about places they have in common | Given a set of items, participants make connections between the item of their choice and the topic |
| Find someone who: A bingo board with qualities that relate to the topic. Participants attempt to fill in their board with signatures in every block | Placemat activity: Participants individually write ideas around the topic on the outer sections of the placemat and then share and find similarities in the group to write in the middle | Participants are given ½ of a quote, statement, or question on the topic. They find their “other 1/2” and discuss and relate. |
| Participants are given cards that they must collaboratively organize into categories on the topic and discuss | Participants create a foldable to use during the session on which to take notes. |  |

**Seasonal/Holiday Themes**

Valentine’s Day: Participants choose a conversation heart candy and relate its saying to the topic

St. Patrick’s Day: Participants choose a phrase with “luck” in it and relate it to the topic.

Winter: Participants create a free-form snowflake using scissors and paper and write three things that are unique about them on it, followed up with sharing in pairs or groups.