

STAFF BONDING ACTIVITIES

Choose from these team-building activities.

DEADLINE IS EVERYONE'S JOB

- Have all staffers stand and form a tight circle, close enough to reach people on the other side of the circle.
- Make sure everyone has an inflated balloon. If you can, give each job type the same color balloon. (i.e. photographers all have blue balloons, designers all have red.)
- Explain the balloon represents all of the tasks assigned to each staffer for the deadline. Bouncing the balloon toward the ceiling and keeping it from touching the floor represents progress.
- Have everyone in the circle begin tapping their balloon in the air. Say: "This is how it works when the entire staff is focused on the deadline."
- Next, use real-life scenarios from your staff to eliminate one or two members of the staff and direct the others to keep all of the balloons in the air. For example, say: "There's a band concert. Joey and Sam will miss work night," and have Joey and Sam step out. At this point it won't be too hard for the others to continue to bounce the balloons.
- Continue to use other real-life scenarios to eliminate staffers, games and practices, big projects due, big tests to study for, senioritis.
- In the end, try to keep only the leaders in the circle, when it's impossible for them to keep all of the balloons going.
- Debrief by discussing how the editor(s) cannot create a yearbook alone. There will often be times when not everyone can participate, but it's important everyone does his/her part.

ONE WORD

- Decide whether you'll discuss all staffers in a single session, choose a couple of people and repeat the process during other meetings until everyone has been discussed or work through the staff a section/ team/ role at a time.
- Announce they will be using a single word to describe the selected peers, followed by a brief explanation. Set guidelines in advance. Do the words need to pertain to yearbook? Are cool, cute and other such vague words off-limits? Model the process saying something like, "My word for Kyle is balanced. He's great with words, and has a strong visual eye. He's a leader who is willing to work hard, and is responsible but loves to have fun."
- Let them know in advance if someone else uses their word, they need to come up with a replacement.
- Other variations include just having five people talk about each staffer before switching subjects, using sticky notes or index cards to pass to the subject or creating posters. Think about having one member who records the words and quick comments for everyone, so they can re-live the positive vibes when they need a pick-me-up.
- If you decide to debrief, you might discuss how it makes people feel to hear compliments and whether it's something to work on as a staff.

FINDING THE FACTS: PARTNER SCAVENGER HUNT

- Pair students (try pairing students who have not had the opportunity to work together).
- Make a list of school-specific information that may prove useful for coverage: Names of custodians and cafeteria staff, teachers who have PhDs, number of seats in the auditorium, coaches and assistant coaches, what sport your principal played in high school.
- Choose items that require going directly to the source (signatures, headshots) and others that can be gathered from a secondary source.
- Debrief about the best ways to find information and staff conduct while out of the classroom.

#ITSMYJOB

- Give staffers 10 minutes to come up with job descriptions using hashtags.
- Either assign a set list of jobs on staff (editor-in-chief, managing editor, business manager, etc.), have them describe their own job or a partner's.
- Write/post suggestions on the board and discuss which ones are most fitting.

Ex. Copy editor #stacksonstacks #realtalk

Photo editor #nofilter #photooftheyear

Design editor #hypefortype