

WELCOME TO YBK

# SKILL SETS



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# STAFF BONDING

VARSIY YEARBOOK SKILL SETS



## STAFF BONDING

# DO YOU EVEN KNOW ME?

**MATERIALS:** CHAIRS FOR A CIRCLE OF PEOPLE, COIN

**Form a circle with chairs facing in. Model the following guidelines:**

- Flip the coin. If it's heads, you'll share something about yourself that is unknown, but true. Tails means your story should sound feasible, but be false. After you share, the group will come to consensus and vote true or false. When you reveal the coin's status, they'll know whether they were correct or not.
- Pass the coin to continue working around the circle. Have someone keep score as the coin makes its way around the circle and everyone shares.
- Many staffs repeat this process with new stories each week or month until they are more comfortable with one another.

## THE TAKEAWAY

### DO YOU EVEN KNOW ME?

- **Some staffs have the same person keep score each time they play, so they can see that they were 23% accurate in August, 49% accurate in September and 95% correct at the end of first semester.**
- **Or, once you know each other better, expand the reporting to include one true and one false statement and have the group guess which is which. Some groups also play a similar game, “Two Truths and a Lie,” which requires three statements, one of which is not true.**
- **Be a “crafty” model by adding some technically true statements like “I graduated with [celebrity name]” or “I went to LA with [celebrity name] last week.” (We were on the same flight; they were in first class.)**

# A LESSON IN OBSERVATION

**MATERIALS:** PEN+PAPER, TIME KEEPER

**Have students pair up. Tell them to look at/study their partner for a full minute without speaking or looking away. They simply observe as much as they can. Following the second interviewing period, the students will take turns introducing their partners to the class.**

- At the end of the minute, they will spend two minutes interviewing their partner about something they observed — a hairstyle, jewelry, t-shirt saying, etc. Then the second student has two minutes for questions of their partner.
- Ask “If you were to write a story about this person, what might the angle be?” Help them see that the angle for a profile could be based on something they had observed about a subject.

## THE TAKEAWAY

SEE ALSO:  
STUDENT WORKBOOK P. 79-81



### A LESSON IN OBSERVATION

- **If done early in the semester, this exercise can be a nice way to introduce staff members. It can be expanded to a writing exercise if you have the students continue interviewing their partners and then write profiles.**
- **Show that a great story might grow out of an observation of a simple thing. Maybe the earrings someone is wearing were given to her by her mother who got them from her mother — so they are a family tradition. Follow-up questions might show how important family is in this student's life.**

# YOU MADE YEARBOOK BETTER WHEN...

**MATERIALS:** A CHAIR FOR EACH STAFFER

**Ask all of the participants to form a circle with their chairs. Some editors/ advisers have the staff do this from their seats around worktables in the staff room so the roving voices reiterate the message of cooperation.**

- Begin the process by sharing something good you noticed a staffer doing.
- Explain that each speaker will verbalize something like: "It made my day when Hailee brought in extra photos of the basketball game. I needed another great horizontal, I wanted pics from another game... and there they were!" or "Travis was finished with his spread and I had a couple of captions that needed work. His help was huge!"
- Repeat until everyone in the room has spoken (or been spoken of).

## THE TAKEAWAY

### YOU MADE YEARBOOK BETTER WHEN...

- **This exercise is great when wrapping up a deadline, but it can also be used to create a better understanding of group ownership of the process. It can help if there's deadline stress or if it seems like people are feeling unappreciated.**
- **The leader might choose to make observations when patterns start to surface (“Sounds like we're really good at supporting others within our sections/on our teams”) to eliminate repetitive comments. You can also solicit other kinds of answers with prompts like “Who got some help from someone completely unexpected?” or “Anybody receive a huge assist that might have been invisible to the rest of us?”**
- **Conclude by reminding everyone that you're strongest as a group — together.**