

Welcome Activity

Overview

In this welcome activity, you will be taking some time to learn about your students, understand their knowledge of the brain and any ideas about the brain they may have coming into this project. Young people may be excited, nervous, or both. This will help you as you prepare to work with the young people over the course of their time with you.

You'll Need

- A television or projector
- A large piece of paper
- Markers
- Name tags
- One hour

Smart Start

- Greet young people as they come in.
- Have them create a name tag. Young people may choose to draw things on their name tag, like pictures of hobbies, pets, or other things of interest.

Here's How

1. Have an opening discussion. Use this time to get to know the young people in your program. Some questions you could ask are:
 - Why are you here? What are you hoping to learn about?
 - What do you find interesting about the brain?
2. Watch video about brain form and function (Nat Geo Brain 101)
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pRFXSjpkKWA>
3. Discuss the following questions.
 - What was interesting about this video? What surprised you?
 - How can learning more about the brain affect your life?
4. Talk about how this program exists to both learn about the brain in a fun, interactive way. We are here to learn new things, to challenge some of the things we think we know, and to have fun. Ask the young people to brainstorm some norms, or rules they agree to follow, during this program. Some of these rules could be "Be safe" or "make sure everyone is participating." At the end, add "Have fun!"
5. Write this list down on a large piece of paper and hang it in the room. refer to it during the program if young people are not adhering to the list they made, or if the young people would like to add to their list.