

Transformers (Community-Building Activity)

Purpose: Foster teamwork, cooperation, problem-solving, and communication. Engage in thoughtful reflection about the decision-making process and group collaboration.

APPROXIMATE TIME:
30 minutes

MATERIALS: NONE

ADVISOR NOTES:

1. Up the Challenge

To make the game more challenging, add a new rule that advisees must remain silent.

2. Make Space for Advisee Voice and Choice

In a future advisory meeting when you think the group would benefit from a kinesthetic community-building activity, invite your advisees to suggest ideas for shapes they can make. Pass out one or more index cards or slips of paper to each advisee, and have them write one idea on each card. Then pull them from a hat or box and play the game. Remember to save time to debrief the activity in a circle discussion.

PROCEDURE:

1. Set Up, Explain, and Play Transformers

- After clearing a space in the center of the room, ask advisees to stand together there. Tell them that you will say the name of a shape or object, and they need to create the shape with their bodies. Every advisee must be part of the final shape, and they cannot use any outside props.
- Form the shape of . . .
 - The letter H
 - An airplane
 - A whale
 - A zipper in motion that is zipping and unzipping
 - A cannonball shooting out of a cannon
 - A door opening and closing

2. Debrief Transformers

Sit in a circle to discuss a selection of the following questions about the game. The final two questions are important because they provide the opportunity for advisees to reflect on their advisory contract and the theme of community.

- How did you decide on a strategy to transform into the shape? Was everyone involved in the decision-making process, or were decisions about strategy made by a few people? How did you feel during this time?
- How did the group communicate during the challenge? In what ways was communication effective? What could you have done as a group and as individuals to make it more effective?
- What observations did you make about how the group worked together? What are you proud of in terms of group collaboration and cooperation? What might you have done as individuals and as a group to improve collaboration and cooperation?
- Did you achieve the goal of creating each shape? If so, what factors contributed to you attaining this goal? If not, what factors prevented you from attaining this goal?
- Did the group honor its advisory contract? If so, what are examples of moments during the transformation when one or more norms was honored? If not, which norms were not honored, and what was the outcome? What could you have done differently to honor these norms?
- What qualities of a strong community did you observe in the group during the activity? What factors that can weaken a community did you observe during the activity?