

ACTIVITY 68

Take a Seat, Make a Friend Project

Purpose: Explore how conversations between strangers can create connections and help break down stereotypes.

ADVISOR NOTES:

1. Prepare Discussion Materials in Advance

After watching the video, pairs will discuss some of “life’s big questions” together. You might use the topics from the video for the discussion, which are listed in the second part of this activity, make up your own topics, or ask advisees to suggest topics after they watch the video. Write each topic on a piece of paper that you or an advisee will choose randomly from a bag, hat, backpack, or box.

APPROXIMATE TIME:

30 minutes

MATERIALS:



VIDEO

Take a Seat, Make a Friend
(see youtu.be/HfHV4-N2LxQ)

PROCEDURE:

1. See What Happens When Strangers Tackle Life’s Big Questions

- Explain to the group that they will watch a short video in which strangers discuss some of life’s big questions. You might ask your advisees to predict what they think will happen during the discussions.
- Play the video **Take a Seat, Make a Friend** (04:52) at youtu.be/HfHV4-N2LxQ.
- Next, challenge your advisees to pair up with someone in the group that they do not feel like they know well. Perhaps they don’t have classes together, belong to the same clubs, teams, or activities, or live near each other. Have them sit side by side, away from other pairs as much as possible. Then you or an advisee should pick the first prompt (see Advisor Notes), and pairs can discuss it together. Then have someone else pick the next prompt, simulating the discussion format in the ball pit from the video. Topics might include:
 - Share three things on your bucket list.
 - Describe the first time you fell in love.
 - Talk about someone who inspires you.
 - Find something that you share in common.
 - Talk about the experience that changed your life.
 - Create a secret handshake.

2. Discuss New Understanding from the Video

Move into a circle to discuss the following questions as a group:

- What is something new that you learned about your partner during your discussion?
- What lessons can you learn from this video?
- What questions does this video raise for you?
- How can you apply the lessons from this video to your own school community?