

Pair Share

This method asks 2 participants to discuss a topic or experience. This is sometimes followed by asking people to share what they just discussed with the rest of the group. Participants are more likely to share with just one other person. This often makes them feel safer to share in the larger group.

Key Elements:

- ❖ Tell people about pairing upfront (e.g. “I’m going to be asking for your ideas and you’ll have a chance to talk with some other folks in the group.”)
- ❖ Physically pair people up
 - Use your fingers or hands to point out pairs (e.g. “You 2, you 2, and you 3”)
 - Ask people to stand up and find a partner
 - Avoid “turn to your neighbor” as can be confusing
- ❖ Keep the activity short and let them know how long they have.
- ❖ Consider giving each pair something to focus on.
 - Have the question being discussed written down.
 - Use a prop such as a handout, picture, or object.
- ❖ Repeat the instructions or question right before they start.



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Tips for situations:

- ❖ Odd # of Participants: Make one set of three, facilitators are not a good idea as a partner.
- ❖ Participants already in pairs (e.g. mom/dad, mother/daughter): Keep them together in a pair or add one other person to make a trio.
- ❖ Participant doesn't want to pair up: Honor that and let it go.
- ❖ Participants needing to care for children: Honor that or put in a trio.
- ❖ Language differences: Move pairs around to accommodate if possible. Often another participant will volunteer to help.
- ❖ Latecomers: Depending on where in the activity you are, add them to a pair or just let them know what is going on and what folks are talking about.

Your ideas:

