

Artist Tool / Pictures & Words

Artisttb003 / “Pictures & Words” Icebreaker Story Telling #1 / CNAM

Title	“Pictures and words” – Storytelling #1
Purpose	Allow students to get to know each other while starting to co-create a story together
Description	This icebreaker exercise can be used online as well as in class. It assumes that every participant has his/her smartphone. The principle of this exercise is to use personal photography to give some insights on the personality of the students while creating a story behind the photo. Each student chooses one photo among the last 10 on their camera roll and shows it to his/her partners. Then, one after the other, they tell their partners a story behind this picture. Free to the participants to completely invent the story or to give real facts. The difficulty of the exercises is to be able to find a link between the three photos to create a common story to all participants.
STEM topics covered	None
Arts topics	Photography, Storytelling
STEAM approach explained	Use photography for developing divergent and then convergent thinking as well as creativity in a very limited time and constrained environment
Setting	Online / In Class
Time frame	15 mins + 20 min for the feedback (optional)
Group size	Groups of 2 to 3 students
Schedule and activities	1. Split the students randomly per groups of 3 in different breakout rooms 2. Each of the students will choose one photo within the last 10 more recent photos on their phone and show it to the group before starting 3. The first participant starts telling the story behind the photo (real or completely invented) 4. He/She has exactly <u>3 minutes</u> to tell the story before the others stop him/her 5. The next participant continues the story using his/her own photo and so forth 6. Respect the 3 minutes per participant 7. Keep 5 mins for feedback on the challenges of storytelling in a very constrained time 8. Return all participants in general room and pick up randomly one or two groups to ask them to tell the audience the story they made up. 9. General debrief with the students on what they thought about the exercise, how it can help to develop certain skills of storytelling, pros and cons of such exercise...
Age group / level of study	BSc, MSc, PhD
Preparation needed / pre-requirements	No preparation needed except having a smartphone with photos
Instructions for students	You are free to choose any photography you want in your smart phone but it must be a recent one as it will be one out of the 10 most recent photos in the camera. There is no obligation to tell the real story / context of the photography if you do not want to reveal too much personal content. However, one of the objectives of this icebreaker is also to allow the different persons in the group to

	get to know each other better. Therefore, do not hesitate to share some personal subjects too.
Instructions for facilitators	This exercise can also be used in a simpler way by asking the participants to only create a story behind their photography without trying to find a link between the three photos and create a common story. Level one of this exercise can be used only to ease the communication between members who do not know each other and to “break the ice” between them while forcing them upon developing storytelling skills. This icebreaker was first used in an online context and worked very well thanks to the creation of breakout rooms and random repartition on Zoom or Teams. It can also be used in class but requires therefore a larger space or different spaces or classrooms as it might be a bit noisy.
Lessons learned	Increase personal creativity, development of communication skills, empathy and visualization skills, presentation and critical thinking. Enhance connection between the participants, especially if it is a new group.
Additional materials	No
Inspiration if any, sources	TACIT Erasmus + program (handout n°3 Storytelling games)
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