

WHO IS LIKE ME

People naturally connect over shared interests, but strong teams are built when individuals embrace differences and recognize the strength in diverse perspectives. This activity encourages participants to explore what truly brings people together and how different viewpoints can enhance collaboration. Successful teamwork isn't just about similarities—it's about finding common ground while valuing what makes each person unique.

CONVERSATION STARTER: Think about a time when you felt like you truly belonged to a group. What made you feel included? Was it because of shared interests, a common goal, or something else?

ARE YOU LIKE ME?

Part 1: Forming Teams by Similarities

1. Distribute a playing card to each participant.
2. Form groups based on something similar about their cards (e.g., same suit, same number, or similar card size).
3. Participants have 1–2 minutes to form their groups.
4. Reform groups using a different way to identify commonalities.
 - a. Encourage participants to form the largest group possible by identifying a shared trait.
5. Discussion:
 - What made you choose the people you first grouped with?
 - Did anything besides the cards influence your decision?

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Deck of playing cards
- "Secret Interest" cards
Print the page below

KEY OBJECTIVES

- Recognize how shared values and experiences influence partnerships.
- Understand how both similarities and differences strengthen partnerships.
- Explore the benefits of working with diverse perspectives.



Part 2: Recruiting Teams Based on Shared Interests

1. Redistribute the cards, giving a new one to each participant.
2. Select ¼ of the group as "Recruiters," while the rest are "Community Members."
3. Give each Community Member a Secret Interest Card. They can read it but cannot share it with others.
4. Recruiters attempt to form the largest team possible by recruiting Community Members.
5. Community Members may only join a team if:
6. They think their playing card as similar to the recruiter's card.
7. Their Secret Interest (see Appendix) aligns with what the recruiter is offering.

FACILITATION TIP

Encourage participants to form groups with people they wouldn't normally choose.

DISCUSSION:

- What strategies did recruiters use to build the largest group?
- How did the secret interests change the team-building process?

REFLECTION

- What did you notice about how groups formed? Were similarities or differences more influential?
- How can finding common ground make teamwork easier? When might differences be an advantage?

APPLICATION

- How can we build stronger teams by balancing similarities and differences?
- What are ways we can be more open to working with people who are different from us?
- Dive Deeper:
- Think about a time when you worked with someone who had a completely different approach than you. Did it make the outcome better or harder? How can we learn to see differences as strengths instead of obstacles?

KEY TAKEAWAY: Strong teams aren't just made of people who are alike—they thrive when members find common ground while valuing different perspectives. Shared goals/values and diverse ideas make teams stronger.

CHECK UNDERSTANDING

Did everyone understand that both having things in common and having different ideas can make teams stronger?



You are invited to join by someone who smiles

You are invited to join by someone who says it will be fun

You are invited to join by someone who has a team of more than 3

You are invited to join by someone who shows real interest in you

You are invited to join by someone who asks you about you and really listens

You are invited to join by someone who has the same color card as you

You are invited to join by someone who has a friend of yours on their team

You are invited to join by someone who makes you smile and feel good

You are invited to join by someone who says you would be an asset or benefit

You are invited to join by someone who has a different color card than you

You are invited to join by someone who has a face card

You are invited to join by someone who has a numbered card