

Large Group Activity: Commonality Scavenger Hunt

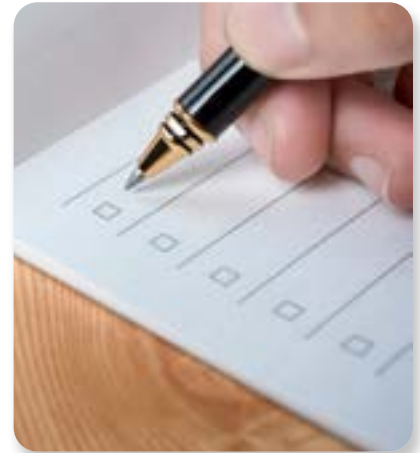
Commonality is the pool of shared values, interests and identities between people. It serves as the key to opening doors for collaboration and cooperation. In discovering shared interests, we can break the ice and build relationships that create a comfortable workplace atmosphere. This activity will allow groups to discover new information about each other and identify workplace commonalities.

Instructions

In this activity, participants will conduct a scavenger hunt to find commonalities amongst the group. It can be performed in a small group in a single gathering or involve an entire organization over the course of a week or more.

1. Collect Unique Facts:

- Ask all participants to anonymously submit something about themselves that they feel is unique, interesting, fun, random, etc.
- Input the facts into the fillable “**Commonality Scavenger Hunt**” on [page 2](#) or [download an editable Word template](#). Distribute form with the rules.



2. Establish the Rules: Outline the scope of the game, rules of interaction and set time limits. Examples include:

- You are challenged with asking your colleagues questions and finding which fun facts belong to whom, without asking them about the fact directly.
- You cannot ask a person a yes/no question about a fact, such as, “Do you like cats?” Instead, engage in conversation to try and reveal the answers. For example, “In my family, I have two kids, a cat and a dog. What’s it like at your house?” or “I’m a cat person—what’s your favorite type of pet?”
- Use the Scavenger Hunt Template to record names of your colleagues next to their facts, as well as any additional personal commonalities you identified during your conversation (e.g., “We both love tacos.”)
- You have [30 minutes / one week / etc.] to make as many connections as possible.
- The first person to match a colleague with every fact first wins, or whoever has the most when the time is up.

3. Reflect: Once the game is over, get together as a group and discuss:

- Something interesting you learned that wasn’t on the list.
- What commonality did someone else have that you also shared? Were any commonalities shared by the majority of the lab/group?
- What items were particularly difficult to find? Why were they difficult?
- What went well? What didn’t go well, and how could it be done differently?

Use this in conjunction with the other Relationship Building resources in the [Effective Communication for Aspiring Laboratory Leaders Toolkit](#), designed by Cohort 17 of the [APHL Emerging Leader Program](#) to empower public health laboratory professionals to be better leaders by improving communication skills.

The toolkit has three sections:

Relationship Building, Empowering Colleagues and Conflict Resolution.

