



University of
Massachusetts
Amherst

Coffee Connections: Rebuilding Connections Among Coworkers in the Library

Item Type	workshop;event
Authors	Lim, Edward Junhao;Cowan, Susanna
Download date	2025-03-24 04:20:21
Item License	http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/
Link to Item	https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.14394/747

COFFEE CONNECTIONS

REBUILDING CONNECTIONS AMONG COWORKERS IN THE LIBRARY
(AN INTERACTIVE SESSION)

Edward Lim & Susanna Cowan
University of Connecticut Library
ACRL New England Annual Conference | 6.1.22

THIS WORKSHOP IS PARTICIPATORY

We would like to connect with each other in the next hour.

Building a sense of community requires your participation!



GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

Random breakout rooms, 3-4 people per group:

- You have 5 minutes.
- No need to share back in the (big) group.

1. Introduce yourself.
2. What is a "boring" (everyday) activity that you actually enjoy - and why?

MINI COFFEE CONNECTION



What is a "boring" (everyday) activity that you actually enjoy - and why?

UConn LIBRARY'S COFFEE CONNECTION IN A NUTSHELL



Build Connections

Learn about each other as individuals

Strengthen existing relationships

Focus on *non-work* topics

RANDOM NAME PICKER,
A TOOL TO MATCH PARTICIPANTS

miniwebtool.com/random-name-picker

SURPRISE IS A
TYPE OF FUN



WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO CONSIDER AND DECIDE? 🤔

- Participant pool - who and how?
- Who can initiate a conversation happen?
- How often? Window period?
- What questions are safe, fun & comfortable for all?

AN INAPPROPRIATE EXAMPLE? ROAST ME 🔥

- Roast: Who here would have a designer wallet, but less than \$2 in their bank account?
- Roast: Who here only goes to the strip club for the #7 special?



WHAT ELSE DO YOU NEED?

- ~~A list of prompts
questions appropriate for
your community~~
- Sign up sheet
- Matching participants
- Soliciting feedback from participants

"YOUR WORKSHEET"

s.uconn.edu/coffee-worksheet

STARTING FROM SCRATCH

Who would benefit from such a program?

- Everyone in the library?
- New colleagues?
- Dept/unit/area?

What are questions that are appropriate for your intended audience/participants?

PEER REVIEW / LEARNING

Offer constructive feedback to your colleague

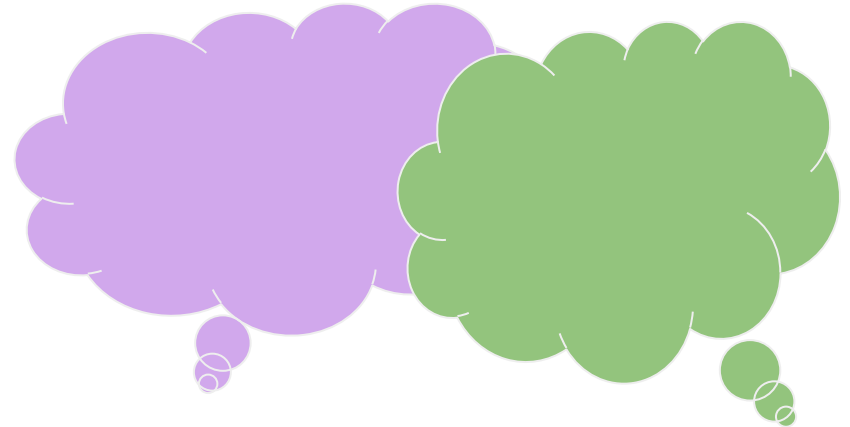
Pretend you are one of the participants: how can the experience be more comfortable and fun?



NOW YOU REVISE YOUR OWN PLAN

How will you allow interested colleagues to sign up, and match them with each other?
How many - will it be a pairing, trio, or groups of 4?

How will you obtain feedback from participants after their connection?



PUTTING IT TOGETHER

Please share with us any part of the following:

- Your intended audience
- 1-2 questions from a working list of discussion prompts
- Ideas about sign-up & matching participants
- Any thoughts on how you'll assess your program
- Any changes you would make to suit your organization

TAKEAWAYS FROM TODAY'S SESSION

Building any community requires being respectful of that community *and* encouraging participation (remember that you are a member of that community too!).

Community building should feel safe – and fun!

Give yourself (and ask for) permission to try things...and to try again as things don't work.

THANK YOU!