

Silent Starter

What is the purpose of this activity?

Get the room quiet quickly.

It is important to teach and practice the silent starter.. Research on education shows that the average teacher, without a silent starter, takes over 1 minute to get a class settled and ready to work. With a silent starter it is down to 4 seconds. Imagine how much time is saved!!

How do I do this activity?

Tell participants why you are using Silent Starter-then review directions: (show overhead)

Raise your hand

Finish your sentence

Let others around you know that hands are up

Stop talking

Eyes on facilitator

Once you have introduced the silent starter say:

"We will practice now - talk about something in your group"

Example: What are you doing for (fill in an upcoming event or weekend?)

Give people a chance to start talking after about a minute raise your hand. Time how long it takes people to get quiet-let know - Tell them goal is less than 4 seconds-we will keep trying

Track the first few times hands go up and let participants know how they are doing-remind them the goal is 4 seconds. Tell them one trick to getting quiet quickly is that if they see a hand up tell other groups/neighbors who might not notice.

When would I use this activity?

- Entering Procedure
- Opener
- Icebreaker
- Team Builder
- Energizer
- Content
- Assessment/Evaluation
- Closing Activity

Time:

Preparation: none

Performance: 5minutes

Cleanup: none




Group size: any size

Material: overhead (optional)

Room Set-up: any

Notes/Questions to ponder:

What are some variations of this activity?

-  Use something that makes a sound -then raise your hand
-  Clap a pattern - have participants clap pattern back
-  Have participants share and model ways to get groups quiet