Sample Facilitation Activity: Inclusion Strategies

**Facilitation focus:** Supporting participants in transitioning from their busy lives into the meeting

**Outcomes:** Participants will be able to focus and prepare to engage in the meeting.

**Preparation:** These sample inclusion activities are from the *Adaptive Schools Sourcebook* (Garmston & Wellman, 2016). Additional details on these strategies can be found at www.thinkingcollaborative.com.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Job</th>
<th>Ask each participant to share their first paid job. This activity is a very quick one that can be used to help participants relate to similar activities from their young adulthood.</th>
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<tr>
<td>What’s on Your Plate?</td>
<td>Hand each participant an unwaxed, white paper plate and markers. Ask participants to write what is “on their plate” (e.g., what they are dealing with, what is causing stress in their life). Ask each participant to share one idea from their plate. Then, ask all participants to physically take their plate and set it on a table on the other side of the room. Explain that they are to temporarily “set aside” what is on their plate in order to focus on the meeting.</td>
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| Grounding         | Form groups of four to six. Explain that the purpose of the activity is to focus on respectful listening and to honor all voices in the room. Explain that participants will take turns responding and all others will listen. When all have responded to the prompt, the first speaker summarizes for the group. Post the prompt on chart paper so all can see. Possible prompts:  
  • What is the commitment that brought you to this meeting?  
  • My expectations for this meeting are …  
  • My relationship to this topic is … |