Introductory Activity: Two Wishes and a Truth

Purpose: to provide a nonthreatening, entertaining, creative way for students to learn things about each other.

Directions:
1. Tell students they will use a new activity to get to know each other. Each person will think about things they would like to tell the class about themselves. Two of the things are entirely made up. They are things we would like to be true but they are not. The third one is something that is true.

2. I begin by telling them three things about myself.
   • I was an honors student in high school and had a full scholarship to college.
   • I am a scuba diver.
   • I won 1,000 at a casino last summer.

3. I remind them that only one of those things is actually true. They now must try and think of some ideas. I provide the following suggestions:

Think of something you wish was true, something you could tell a new girl or guy you meet that would impress them. Where would you like to have traveled? What would you like to have accomplished? What would you like to have done for a job? What would you like to have owned? Then think of things that were true: Were you an athlete in school? Have you traveled somewhere interesting? Is there something unusual about yourself or your life experiences? Have you gotten a promotion at work? Have you recently purchased a new car? Do you speak three languages? Do you have an unusual family, or pet? Have you done something crazy? Don’t tell things that are obvious. (i.e. I am from Africa) Don’t make up things that are too unbelievable (i.e. I won a million dollars in a lottery).

4. Then I give them a few minutes to think of some things they want to tell about themselves. I suggest that they take out a piece of paper and write down a few ideas so they will remember them when they speak.

There are two ways you can complete this activity. One takes an extra 15 minutes or so.

1. Shorter Version: Go around the room and have people introduce themselves by their first name, and ask them to tell the three things about themselves. (two wishes and a truth) If they are not speaking loudly, ask the student to repeat what they have said. Let the class think about what they have said for a minute. I sometimes make a comment. “Wow, that is really interesting.” “I have no idea which one of those is true!” Then, move on to the next person. Continue around the room until everyone has had a turn. It leaves everyone guessing and curious as they do not know which thing actually was the true fact. People also are far more relaxed when they can make things up and add humor to the situation.
II  **Longer Version** Play it as a competition- Who is the best storyteller? The first part of the procedure is the same, one person tells three things about themselves with only one being true. However, now a student on the opposite side of the room guesses which thing is true. If they are correct, they get two pieces of candy. If they are wrong, the person behind them can guess. If they are correct, they get one piece of candy. If neither person was right, the person telling the three things gets three pieces of candy for fooling everyone. Then you move on to the next person and continue guessing from the other side of the room.

**Note:** If someone is unprepared let a few more students tell their wishes & truth and come back to them. Also, some students may ask for help while everyone is thinking of something and writing their notes.