

Day One: A People Search

Participating in this People Search on the first day alerts the students to the fact that this is a class where talking is expected. As we listen to the noise and notice their smiles, we are reminded of what on-task, engaged, happy students look and sound like. We hope to keep this in mind throughout the year.

See also People Hunt on pages 111 and 112.

Having students make lists of preferred groupmates, of course, does not work if most of the students are new to one other; for example, students entering a new, large middle or secondary school from a variety of elementary feeder schools. If this is the case, we proceed to a People Search (Fogarty, 1990) to help students learn their classmates' names and begin to become acquainted.

During the first week, we want activities that will require students to move about the room and speak to each other. In a People Search, students must ask their classmates a series of questions in order to discover some of the things that were done over the summer holiday (see People Search, page 15). In this way, every member of the class is approached by others and every member must initiate some conversations. The students love finding out about each other's summers. Even the students who are learning English as a second or third language actively participate in this activity. Once they have heard a question asked, students can use this as a model for approaching others. We move among the students, bridging as necessary to ensure that all are included.

People Search

Have each person sign in only once! Find someone who, over the summer...

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• played a lot of video games <hr/> <hr/> <p>Signature</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• went overseas <hr/> <hr/> <p>Signature</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• traveled by train or by boat <hr/> <hr/> <p>Signature</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• learned how to do something new <hr/> <hr/> <p>Signature</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• enjoyed spending time alone <hr/> <hr/> <p>Signature</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• read a great book <hr/> <hr/> <p>Signature</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• went somewhere they had never been before <hr/> <hr/> <p>Signature</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• camped <hr/> <hr/> <p>Signature</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <hr/> <hr/> <p>Signature</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <hr/> <hr/> <p>Signature</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <hr/> <hr/> <p>Signature</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <hr/> <hr/> <p>Signature</p>