

## Build community in the library this fall!

### Can't I just Google it?

Convince your students that using a subscription database might actually be FASTER and MORE EFFICIENT than Googling! FactCite, a collection of research databases for students, has [a short video](#) that explains the difference between a Google search and a database search.

### Ready to face a group of fresh new faces this fall?

FactCite has templates for three icebreaker activities, appropriate for all grade levels. Email us ([owls@factcite.com](mailto:owls@factcite.com)) to request templates to support these activities. Build connections and engage students on Day 1...and throughout the school year!

### Icebreaker 1: Who's in your circle?

Greet students during their first visit and talk about what makes a community. A great way to do this is to share a read-aloud on the subject and then do the activity. (Suggestions: *The Circles All Around Us* by Brad Montague or *Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt de la Peña.)

### Icebreaker 2: Would you rather?

Use "Would You Rather?" at the beginning of the year (or anytime there are a few spare minutes at the end of a class session)! This activity can be adapted to any space, the time available, or subject area.

To play "Would You Rather?" ask students a question, such as "Would you rather have a million dollars or a tree that grows money?" Students who pick the first stand up and those who pick the second remain seated.) Then, call on a few students to share why they made that choice.

### Variation to use with research:

"Would You Rather?" ties in perfectly for biography research. Have students choose two notable people to research (FactCite has four biography databases. Email [owls@factcite.com](mailto:owls@factcite.com) for a trial during your research period.) After research, ask them to draft a question based on the person they researched. For example, they might ask "Would you rather be a mathematician like Katherine Johnson or a space explorer like Sally Ride?" Or "Would you rather be an ace pitcher like Cy Young or a home run hitter like Babe Ruth?"

### Icebreaker 3: Blobs and Lines

"Blobs and Lines" is an icebreaker that provides students with opportunities to practice relationship-building while incorporating movement. We first read about this activity on [The Cult of Pedagogy blog](#).

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In "Blobs and Lines," the leader calls out a question. Some questions cause the participants to line up in a specific order while others force them to form small groups around common themes.

For example, ask participants to form groups by favorite food (Are you "cake" or "ice cream"; "apple" or "banana"), causing participants to begin getting to know one another and form small groups. Another idea would be to ask students to line up in alphabetical order by first name, which causes them to speak to one another to learn basic information while also problem-solving to organize themselves. Throughout the game, these groups change based on the questions and show how we might have interests and connections with many different people.

### **How will YOU get the school year off to a great start?**

We'd love to hear from you! Email Susan Gall ([sgall@factcite.com](mailto:sgall@factcite.com)) or [owls@factcite.com](mailto:owls@factcite.com) to request templates, get started with a FactCite trial, or to tell us about your back-to-school plans!

*Fall is a great time to have your students test-drive FactCite. Contact MISBO or email [owls@factcite.com](mailto:owls@factcite.com) to get a FactCite preview activated!*