

# Speedy Techniques

## If [Creativity] Went on a Date

### Creative warm-up/abstraction tool

CATEGORIES: WARM-UP, ABSTRACTION, ESSENCE, LATERAL THINKING

This simple, fun activity can be used for a quick topic warm-up. But it's also helpful if you want students to think about the essence or abstract qualities of a concept, problem or task – or if you want to set them up to think laterally about it.

### Steps

1. Identify the object. It can be pretty much anything – a theoretical concept, a topic of study, a specific task or problem. Ask them to imagine the object was going on a date. Imagine the product in a group marketing project went on a date. Imagine *Ulysses* went on a date. Imagine Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle went on a date. Imagine creativity went on a date.
2. The idea here is for them to identify the essences or abstract qualities of the object, and to translate them into human characteristics. Give them a few specific questions to get them going:
  - a. What would the object wear on a date?
  - b. Where would it suggest meeting?
  - c. Would it pay for dinner?

You could have students work individually, but it's more fun if they work in groups or pairs. Five minutes should be enough time.

3. Gather feedback in whatever way best suits the situation. Each pair or group can give their summary of how the object would behave on a date in turn; or they could use a post-it wall (real or virtual) or brainstorming app.
4. Ask students individually to list three (or five or ten) key attributes of the object, based on the activity. If you're just using the activity as a warm-up, this allows a bit

of reflection to wrap things up; if you're going on to a more serious discussion of the essence or abstract qualities of the object, you can use this list as a starting point.

5. Close the activity off with a quick poll of the students: would they go on a date with the object?

## Variations

- If you want to encourage students to think about relations between different objects, you can add extra daters. Have different groups/pairs think about different objects: Group A thinks about [postcolonialism's] dating qualities; Group B thinks about [ecocriticism]; then bring the two together – will the date be a success?

**ONLINE?** YES – THIS WORKS IN AN ONLINE CLASSROOM WITH BREAKOUT ROOMS.

**PHYSICAL RESOURCES?** NONE ESSENTIAL, BUT YOU COULD CREATE A TEMPLATE FOR A DATING PROFILE FOR THE OBJECT. YOU MAY ALSO WANT TO USE A PHYSICAL SPACE OR A DIGITAL TOOL SUCH AS A JAMBOARD FOR FEEDBACK.