

Comparison Embers

www.campaugusta.org

Theme: Examining how we compare things and evaluate them.

Age of campers: 13+

Time allotted/actual: 30-45 minutes

Location: Anywhere quiet and comfortable.

Props/Materials/Symbols: Sheet of questions.

Prep done: Create a sheet of about 15 questions that offer a choice between two things. These are generally clearly defined dichotomies though some of them will not be and will be harder for the campers to choose between. Have a range of questions from the trivial to the serious such as Dogs Vs Cats and Heart Vs Brain. Questions can be worded with language like: "Which one do you feel you lead your life with, your heart or your brain?" or "Which is scarier, being shipwrecked in a life raft, or being lost in the Amazon Jungle?"

Opening/Mood set: Introduce the game and the questions, and explain what you will do.

Questions/Activities:

1st activity: Go around the circle and share answers to these questions. Once each person has answered as many as they like, ask them which questions they found most difficult and why.

2nd activity: Guide the discussion towards wondering why we compare things by asking them if it was a familiar process and what role they think comparison plays in their lives. Is it healthy? Does it contribute to life? What is and is not along a dichotomy?

Closing: Think about deeper questions like "Do you tend to dwell in the past or wonder about the future more?" and whether the group will respond to them.

Were other people involved? None needed.

Thoughts on pacing? If the campers dwell on the questions and talk more about them (which is common), see if they are interested in coming up with their own comparisons and asking them of other campers.

What would you change next time / what did you learn / how would you enhance it? See above. If implemented, it would be an interesting new avenue.

Camper feedback: Very positive.

Companion Sheet: Sample Questions for the Comparison Embers

LIGHT

- Do you prefer dogs or cats?
- Do you like winter or summer best?
- Would you rather be a ninja or a pirate?
- Do you understand the world best through your eyes or your ears?
- Which is more fun: making things, or blowing things up?

MEDIUM

- Would you rather have \$1 million, or see \$1 million in improvements to your favorite place?
- Which do you lead with in life, your heart or your head?
- Which is scarier: being shipwrecked in a life raft, or being lost in the Amazon?

- Do you prefer to: save up and earn something with hard work and no debt, or get it right now and be in debt for more than its worth?
- Would you rather never meet your favorite celebrity and always think them perfect, or meet your favorite celebrity and find out they were a jerk?

HEAVY

- Do you tend to dwell in the past or worry about the future more?
- Which world issue would you fix first: feeding the hungry or curing cancer?
- Which would make you happier: being CEO of a huge company, or having a huge family?
- Would you rather find true love, or discover the meaning of life?
- Would you rather know the date of your death, or the cause of your death?