



BREAK THE ICE

Breaking the Ice: Scenario Writing

The goal of this assignment is to show you can analyze a social situation and describe a concrete, appropriate method for "breaking the ice."

Part 1: Scenario Analysis and Response

Read the two scenarios below. For each situation, describe the initial **tension** or **awkwardness** (the "ice") and then propose an effective "icebreaker" activity or comment.

Scenario A: The New Remote Team

Setting: A new digital marketing team has been formed across three time zones (Vietnam, Brazil, and Canada). The team leader, Mai, starts their first Monday morning video call. Everyone is nervous about the time difference, working remotely, and the high-stakes project they need to start. The first five minutes are silent, except for people adjusting their headphones and cameras.

1. **Describe the "Ice":** What is causing the awkwardness and hesitation in this scenario? (Focus on the root of the tension, not just silence.)
2. **Propose the Icebreaker:** If you were Mai, what one quick, non-work-related question or activity would you use to *break the ice*?
3. **Justification:** Briefly explain *why* your proposed icebreaker would be effective in this specific international, remote setting.

Scenario B: The Quiet Family Dinner

Setting: Teenager Ethan is visiting his older cousin, Sophia, who just moved to a new country and now lives in a house share with three other students (from Norway, South Africa, and India). Ethan has been invited for dinner, but the three housemates are very polite and quiet. They are all sitting down to eat and nobody is talking, waiting for someone else to start the conversation.

4. **Describe the "Ice":** What is causing the awkwardness and hesitation in this scenario? (Focus on the root of the tension, not just silence.)
5. **Propose the Icebreaker:** If you were Ethan, what single question or comment would you use to *break the ice* and get everyone talking about something easy?
6. **Justification:** Briefly explain *why* your proposed icebreaker is a good fit for a group of strangers sitting at a dinner table.
