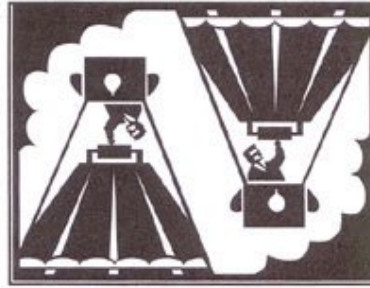


## SO MUCH IN COMMON

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### OBJECTIVES

To demonstrate that people often have more in common than **not** in common.  
To create team identity.



### MATERIALS REQUIRED

Copies of the Commonality Exercise form.

### PROCEDURE

Distribute copies of the Commonality Exercise Form to each team member. Ask team members to find a partner quickly. When given the signal to begin, instruct them to find out as many things as they possibly can that the two of them have in common. Ask them to write down the partner's name and jot down, in the first column, the items that they found to be in common.

At the end of 2–3 minutes, call time and ask team members to find a new partner and, at your signal, repeat the process. Call time after 2–3 minutes.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How many of you found more than 15 things in common?
2. What were some of the unusual items you discovered?
3. How did you uncover these areas of commonality?
4. Is it likely that in most situations, we may well find similar results, i.e., we have much more in common than we otherwise might think?
5. What implications does this have for us as members of a team? Of a diverse workforce?

## TIPS

The noise level can get high during this exercise. Blow a whistle or ring a bell to signal the end of each round.

To speed up the exercise, shorten the Commonality Exercise form from 15 items to 7 or 10 items.

To make the activity fun, give prizes to the 2 people who found the most in common. Have extra prizes in case of a tie.

## IF YOU HAVE MORE TIME

Repeat the process one more time.

## COMMONALITY EXERCISE

HANDOUT

List the things you find in common with three other people in the workshop.

NAME _____	NAME _____	NAME _____
1 _____	1 _____	1 _____
2 _____	2 _____	2 _____
3 _____	3 _____	3 _____
4 _____	4 _____	4 _____
5 _____	5 _____	5 _____
6 _____	6 _____	6 _____
7 _____	7 _____	7 _____
8 _____	8 _____	8 _____
9 _____	9 _____	9 _____
10 _____	10 _____	10 _____
11 _____	11 _____	11 _____
12 _____	12 _____	12 _____
13 _____	13 _____	13 _____
14 _____	14 _____	14 _____
15 _____	15 _____	15 _____