

Three Numbers

What is it for?

A storytelling warm-up activity

Time & People

10 minutes

Pairs, small groups, one-to-many

Materials

Index cards and pens

Source

Unknown

And also...

This can be used as an introductory activity for a guest speaker. They put three numbers on a slide and invite the audience to select a number for them to talk about. If the audience is large they can take a quick poll: put your hands up if you want me to talk about #10; or number #165; etc. Select the most popular number and talk about that.

Description

Give each person an index card and a pen and ask them to write down three numbers that are significant to them and that they could tell a short, true anecdote about.

The numbers might refer to a year, eg 1975

An age where something significant happened, eg 17

A number of things that are important such as children, chooks, dogs owned etc

Anything really, as long as a number can be associated with it.

In pairs, Person A shows Person B the card with their three numbers. Person B selects a number for Person A to talk about. Swap roles.

There is no need to debrief this activity.

This activity is a good filler, if you need to do a short activity while waiting for the computer to be fixed, someone to show up, just before lunch arrives etc.

Encourage people to actually tell a story about the number, not just declare what it is.

People will want to know what the other numbers mean. Decide if you want to share all three number stories, or leave a little bit of intrigue.