

Educator's Tip of the Month

When bringing together a group for an organized meeting or program, create an atmosphere of collegiality, anticipation and avoid distractions.

How to do this?

- 1. "Withhold" the program or meeting materials
 - a. Participants tend to "scan through" and don't meet their fellow participants. Create an atmosphere where people can mingle and meet one another.
- 2. Plan for an "Ice Breaker" activity at the beginning
 - a. If the group is not familiar with one another, use an activity that introduces them- by name or unique talent.
 - b. If the group is well acquainted, choose an activity that has them share something out of the ordinary.
- 3. Create mutually set ground rules that everyone agrees tonot created by you the facilitator- created by the group. This approach allows participants to "own" their behavior and hold their peers accountable.