



TEACHER NOTES: GREETINGS CHAIN REACTION ROLE PLAY ACTIVITY

I haven't had a chance to run this activity with all of the parts in motion. I wrote this for an English Corner and had only a small turnout of very shy students.

This activity would be more suitable for a large class, with a healthy sprinkling of extroverts. You should have extroverts playing the key roles of President Fitzwater and Eminem.

The activity explores the vague and ever-changing rules about addressing people in the West – Mr., Mrs., Miz or Miss, first names, last names, and professional titles.

The activity also provides for practicing small talk and exchanging opinions on the topics of football, music and animals (dogs) and exchanging questions and answers about work or school.

Before the activity, students should have been able to use common introductory phrases. This activity is for practise.

Every student is given a role-play card which tells them their name and a few facts, including their age, occupation and their opinions on a various subjects.

There are also surprises in store for the students as they circulate around the room, introducing themselves and greeting others. Some will find long-lost friends, some will find family members, their bosses and so forth.

It is important to hand out the role play identity cards in sequence for this aspect of the game to work. It doesn't matter if you don't have enough students to hand out all the cards, but hand them out from 1, 2, 3 and so forth.

Also, using adhesive labels or pieces of masking tape, every student should post their age on their chest for this game. This is so they know the age of the person they are speaking to for the role play and can use the correct forms of social address of a young person talking to an older person, or vice versa. As the students introduce each other, they will learn about the other person's identity, occupation and opinions.

Bonus activity:

Students could be given a checklist and asked to keep circulating and introducing themselves until they find people who like to be called by their first name, or last name, or who like dogs, or don't like dogs, etc.