



Popular Education: Techniques to engage your audience

During your presentation, engage your audience with popular education. In addition to sharing information and personal stories, incorporate activities to “break the ice” and get your audience active in the topic. The following are some SAF staff favorites!

Spider Web

Participants sit in a large circle. One participant shares their name and a statement about himself/herself. The facilitator might ask for statements that serve as an ice breaker or that pertain to the topic at hand. Holding one end of a ball of yarn the participant then tosses the yarn to another participant on the other side of the circle. Play continues until all participants have introduced themselves. At this point discuss the point of the spider web, i.e. community, being tied together. If you have time then you can unravel the spider web by having the last person toss the yarn back to the connecting person while repeating their name and statements.

Pair Share

A great way to find out what your audience knows is by having them share their knowledge with another and the group. Have participants split into pairs and each share what they know about a topic (child labor, farmworker rights, pesticides, etc.) with their partner for 2-3 minutes. Pairs then share thoughts and information with the larger group.

Cabbage – “El Repollo”

Write questions or facts pertaining to the topic you will be presenting on individual sheets of paper. Make a ball out of the questions, crumpling one sheet over the other so it is easy to take off one sheet while the “cabbage” stays intact. Instruct participants to throw the ball around the group. As a person catches it he or she peels off a layer, reads the question or fact, answers the questions or comments on the fact and throws it to the next person.