

## A Not So Fun Fact

Annika Morschauser | Opinion Editor



It's the first day of school. You know no one in the room. The teacher has the most groundbreaking idea on how to introduce everyone to each other in the class. The teacher says,

“Stand up, say your name and share a fun fact about yourself in front of the class.”

Everyone in the room is silent, crossing their fingers that they are not chosen first. *What is fun about me? I don't do anything fun.* Guess what? You make the mistake of making eye contact with the teacher who points at you to go first. Your hands are sweaty. Your knees are shaking and you stumble your way to the front of the class. You look out into the crowd of classmates you'll be stuck with for the entire year and nothing comes to mind. Their beady eyes stare into your soul, judging every second you stand there without saying a word. A cough is heard in the back. Two students giggle in the corner. Somehow you hear crickets or you're imagining them. You fumble with your words and finally say,

“I...uh...have a dog?”

You blew it. Everyone knows it, even the teacher.

Why do we do this? Why is our go to icebreaker a fun fact about yourself? What is the definition of fun that the audience is looking for? Fun as in actually sucked at the time but is cool looking back on it, like breaking a bone. Maybe it's fun as in unique, like being able to complete a puzzle in thirty seconds. Fun as in weird, like being able to crack your toes. What kind of fun are they looking for?

Besides, the main goal of this icebreaker is to top the previous person's fun fact. You have to be cooler than they are or else no one will remember your name. If someone takes what you were going to say, you're done for because there can be no repeats even if it's true. Speaking of the truth, there can be no lying in this because there is a high possibility that you'll be caught. Someone is bound to ask a follow up question and most people can only handle a lie for so long before they are found out. That's just embarrassing and you'll be remembered for the wrong reasons.

Instead of asking for fun facts, we could ask what they're favorite book, song or movie is. That tells you a lot about a person. There are so many other questions that are more practical to ask and far less nerve wracking to answer. Better yet, don't ask me anything at all.

Photo: Kobus Louw –

<https://www.istockphoto.com/photo/shot-of-a-student-struggling-with-schoolwork-in-a-classroom-gm1324921320-410106511?searchscope=image%2Cfilm>