PAIR EXERCISE: Practice Good Conversation Skills

Students choose a partner to get to know in class, preferably not a friend or seat mate.

1. Before beginning the conversation, write down four questions to ask the other person and a funny comment you could make about yourself.
2. Appoint a partner to begin the conversation with a question. During the conversation, the person speaking must end the turn with a question. Continue until all the questions have been asked.
3. At the end, each person in class introduces the partner by sharing the two most interesting things they learned about the other person.
4. Consider these points in a quick-write reflection on the exercise:
   a. Were you both able to end with a question every time?
   b. Did you feel more engaged in the conversation when you asked questions and listened for answers?
   c. Did you pay attention to the nonverbal communication?
   d. Did you remember more about the person than you usually do in a conversation?
   e. Was this exchange more or less productive than a typical verbal exchange with a new person?
   f. What were some things you tried to do to put the person at ease?