Activity (Methodology)
Welcome Speech (Introduction)

When to do the exercise
1st

Objectives
- To be comfortable and eager to pursue new learning situations.
- To develop skills in listening actively and thoughtfully and to respond with respect to other people.
- To know what AFS Orientation events participants and their host family are expected to attend throughout the year and when they will take place.
- To engage with others in the spirit of cooperation, with respect and appreciation for their goals and decisions.
- To give participants important information to bear in mind as they are experiencing their first few months living and adjusting in the U.S.

Introduction [SLIDE #1-2]
- I am ________ and I am the Lead Facilitator for this Arrival Orientation.
- Your AFS experience will be quite different from a vacation, and while you have many great and fun things to look forward to, living outside of your comfort zone for months on end can be challenging for anybody.
- Now, I would now like to introduce those who are assisting in this Arrival Orientation. [All staff and volunteers stand and introduce themselves.]
- If you have any questions or concerns, please come talk with any volunteers, who are here to support and help you.
- Even if you feel nervous about using English, please don’t feel shy.
- It is normal to feel many different emotions even on your first day in the U.S.
- This Arrival Orientation is your first Orientation for your AFS Program.
- There are five Orientations during your program in the U.S.
- AFS Orientations are designed to give students the opportunity to share their experiences, reflect on their skills and development, seek support and strengthen their connections as AFSers.
- For this reason, your attendance at ALL AFS Orientations is mandatory.
• The following orientations will be planned and organized by your local volunteers.
  1. Arrival Orientation: happening right now
  2. Post-Arrival Orientation: 3-6 weeks after your arrival
  3. Mid-Stay Orientation: 5-6 months into your experience
  4. Pre-Return Orientation: 6-8 weeks before you return to your home country
  5. End-of-Stay Orientation: 1-2 day(s) before you depart for your home country
• The “AFS Contact Sheet & Local Orientations Schedule” handout is an important resource.
• When you get information from Volunteers about Orientations, please write it on your sheet and be sure to share it with your host family.
• It is important for your host family to know about the Orientations.
• It is mandatory that all AFS students attend all Orientations (unless there are extreme circumstances).