Good Morning,

Here are instructions for the ***Animal Group Exercise***. This gives instructors an opportunity to assess what types of personalities are in the group and the “spread” of personalities, but it also gives the students an opportunity to self-reflect. Below are the basic instructions, but the fun part for instructors is they can change things up whenever they want. This is a nice ice breaker for those really quiet students in the groups.

1. Place the animal pictures in four separate areas of the room. I usually hang them on the walls with tape and have them hanging up when the students arrive; it gets them curious but also gives the instructor an idea on how observant the students are.
2. Do not describe the animal personalities yet; have the students go stand near the animal that they believe their personality more closely matches.
3. Once all students are in place (some will have problems deciding), then actually have the students go through the personality of each animal.
4. **Lion**-aggressive, pack leaders, assertive, easily influence the group because of their strong personalities.
5. **Dolphins**-playful, work well in a team (e.g. dolphins hunt for food in groups and use teamwork to “herd” the fish); they can sometimes play too much in class or skills lab!
6. **Fox**-rarely seen together, because they work alone, sly; this can reflect how they will work with a team.
7. **St. Bernard**-the rescue dog; sensitive, sweet, get along well with anybody; these are the students who tend to cry in clinical. I always crack a job about the St. Bernard rescuing lost people and always with a barrel of liquor attached to their collar!
8. Students may change their mind and then switch to another animal after the descriptions; the idea is for them to choose the animal that represents their strongest personality type.

Have fun with it! What animal are you?!

I usually share with students that this helps them and the instructor throughout the course, because it helps decide how to approach a student in some instances. There are many applications for students regarding the outcome of this exercise.