

## UNIQUE TABLING IDEAS

By: The Social Excellence Project

Each year, every campus hosts some variations of an “activities fair.” Student organizations set-up tables all in a row, pass out fliers, and have surface level conversations. Or, there is an opportunity for student orgs to set up tables in high traffic areas of campus. The goal of “tabling” should not be to pass out your information. It is to get *their* information. Create an experience that will encourage the person passing by to stop, engage with you and write down his/her name and the name of a few friends. Our favorite ideas? Check out the next several pages!

### **Predict The Score Tabling**

Super Bowl coming up? Big homecoming game next week? March Madness happening soon? What about the women’s Rugby team? Don’t forget about the big rivalry game of the local NFL team!

Pick a game. Set up a system for passersby to guess the winner/score (or fill out that super important March Madness bracket!) Then offer a small prize for the winner. Make sure to collect people’s names, email, and phone numbers so you can notify the winners!

### **Rock Paper Scissors Tabling**

You want people who are walking by to be surprised, delighted, and willing to engage with you. They won’t do that if you just put up a bunch of organization paraphernalia and look cool. You have to do something fun! We’ve seen success when people simply put a poster board up on the table that says, “Rock Paper Scissors Challenge” at the top. Then the instructions read something like, “If you win, you get a high five and a piece of candy. If we win, we get 30 seconds of your time!” Then just step in front of passersby and challenge them to RPS! What’s fun is that even if they win, they’ll often ask, “Who are you all and what are you doing this for.” And remember, if you win, be sure to engage them in a meaningful conversation not some cheap pitch about recruitment. Connect with them, gather their contact information, and set up a time to connect again soon.

### **Tabling With a Raffle or Drawing**

Super simple idea. Give away the hot new tech toy, raffle off tickets to the big event happening on campus or nearby. Do a drawing for a lunch with the university president. Get something autographed by someone famous, and raffle it off. Create a charity silent auction with lots of fun prizes that folks can “bid” on with tickets they buy at a set price. Whatever you do, make sure you have people write their name, contact information, and something fun about themselves on the entry form/ticket!



## Fun Question Tabling

We've seen organizations table on campus with a big board where passersby can write down their favorite song lyric/movie quote and put their name next to it.

We've seen tabling done with a piece of poster board with a line drawn down the middle -- on one side the heading says, "Give Up Music," on the other side the heading says, "Give Up Sports." Chapter members then ask passersby to put their name in the column they choose as the answer to, "Would you rather be forced to give up music for life or give up sports (watching and playing) for life?" Then ask why?

We've seen tabling done where people make a deck of 15 cards with powerful questions on each of them. Ask folks walking by to "pick a card." Then engage in a conversation about the question. Finish up with an offer to put their name on a list of people willing to engage in thoughtful dialogue at some upcoming coffee shop sessions.

