Fostering Leadership: Communication

Purpose

The following two activities will give your students an opportunity to practice a fundamental leadership skill: communication.

Materials

Deck of Cards, Markers, Paper

Activity 1: Group Construction

In groups of four-five, students are given a task to complete with a given time limit and without talking. The group is given a deck of cards, and their task is to build the "best" card-structure they possibly can.

Adaptations

To make this activity more dynamic you may assign certain roles to students in their groups. For example, only person is designated to talk while another is the designated "card holder".

Debrief: At the end of the activity, get students thinking and connect the activity to your own lesson on leadership skills by asking:

1. What made the activity difficult? What made it easy?
2. What was it like when the group couldn't talk?
3. In what ways did your group work together without talking?
4. Why is working together important?
5. Where else in your life do you need to work as a team?

Activity 2: Team Artistry

In groups of two, one student will recreate a drawing with the help of another student. Students will sit back-to-back. One student is given a picture, and must describe that picture to their partner who is to draw the picture on their paper. The student with the picture should try to have their partner reproduce the picture as closely as possible to the original.

Debrief: At the end of the activity, get students thinking and connect the activity to your own lesson on leadership skills by asking:

1. What made the activity difficult? What made it easy?
2. Why is communication important?
3. Where else in your life do you need to communicate?