



Teamwork Makes the Dream Work

This activity was created to be used primarily with:

10. Teamwork

Secondary skills include:

1. Creativity and Innovation
3. Initiative and Self-Direction
5. Work Ethic
8. Respect for Diversity
9. Customer Service Orientation
11. Big-Picture Thinking
14. Efficiency and Productivity
20. Professionalism

1. **Teacher will define Teamwork as:**

establishing expectations, roles, and goals: workers need roles and goals the same way any of us prosper in our personal lives when we have the freedom to pursue whatever we want. It gives us meaning and focus, we understand how we have grown and we can see where we are headed through the efforts of our lives. We do this within a team and we join a collective mission of that team. We are necessary. We understand who we are and feel like we are contributing to a shared vision, which is honestly more difficult than it sounds.

contributing to the success of the team by sharing responsibility: win or lose, good teams work together and share in successes and setbacks, which means everyone on the team has a stake in making it work and not taking credit for all of its success or failure. Contributions mean that each team member brings something necessary to the function of the team and workers must trust, support, value, communicate and ultimately depend on each other to succeed. Teams within larger organizations can foster healthy competition internally and provide a competitive edge for the company externally. People who willingly belong to a team participate in a group that can make individual contributions more meaningful and purposeful, or the concept of working toward something more important than one's individual goals, and being a part of something larger.

respecting the thoughts, opinions, and contributions of other team members: teams offer recognition, community, shared vision and efforts and are only as good as the contributions from their members. That is why teams must begin with respect, especially of different points-of-view.

<p>Note. Teamwork skills offer many crossover skill teaching opportunities for reinforcement.</p>
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2. Teacher will present various strategies students could use to improve their skills for ways teams work, based on current program.
3. Teachers will take learners through the following example of how to turn personal experience of participating on teams into an interview.

Use this example to get them started:

Example: You walk into an interview, but you have no work experience in the field you are going into. Your interviewer asks, "How do you work with others?"

Turn this answer into an example of how you contributed to the success of a team effort in school or out of school.

Note: Teamwork questions are not necessarily about your leadership qualities. Therefore, beware of talking exclusively about yourself or taking credit for a team's success. Turning positive personal stories into examples for employment opportunities can be beneficial in interviews, and students should think about a few examples from their lives as examples of a number of core values they hold, especially if they have little professional experience. An interview is a process to predict what you can do for a company but also to discover the real person who you are. You are more than your resume. So don't be afraid to tell your story. Just keep it short and to the point.

Personal Story of Teamwork:

A personal story has a setting (mental or physical landscape/context), plot (sequence of events), character (personal value, "teamwork" in this case), conflict (competition or risk of not working together, "the flood" in this case), and resolution with a final message (what happened and what was learned, "what teamwork means to me" in this case).

One summer, I was working at a restaurant part-time and going to summer school. We were getting a lot of rain and then the rain just wouldn't stop. My coworkers and I heard about this little town about 30 miles away that looked like it was going to flood. We used to canoe that river and would put in near that town, so it was sad to think of it getting so much damage. We decided to go down there as a group and sandbag. Basically you build a wall in the water of whatever you can get into a bag and still carry it. It's grueling work. We worked all day and didn't really make a dent. It kept raining but we decided to go again. Some of us would stay to cover shifts and then we would rotate every two days. We were all dead tired but we supported each other when we got down. Word sort of spread about what we were doing. We got some local press and the restaurant of course got a little attention and the owner got behind it. Soon, hundreds of people were showing up at that river. We even had a bulldozer. Soon, we were beating the river and soon after, the rain finally broke.

Message: I was no different from anybody, and, at first, I didn't think we could stop a flood. But it taught me a lot about being a part of something bigger than myself. It's not really about



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stopping a flood after all, because, fact is, sandbagging only pushes the water a little further downstream where nobody lived. A river is going to do whatever it wants. But you asked me how I work with others and I will tell you, it was the working together, it was working toward a common goal, it was supporting each other because we needed every hand, and it was about the people in the town who supported us, giving us meals and one lady even played her violin for us. Those folks expressed gratitude but it was really me who was grateful for it. It was one of the hardest things I ever did, but I felt I was a part of something larger than myself. That's what teamwork means to me. It's supporting each other even when what you're building is still submerged.

Assignment: Have students analyze the components of the example story or try writing one on their own.

Story Components

Setting:

Plot:

Character:

Conflict:

Resolution with final message:

Additional resources:

Teamwork Skills: Definition and Examples: <https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/career-development/teamwork-skills>

4 Stories Great Leaders Tell To Engage Their People:
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/davidsturt/2015/01/22/4-stories-great-leaders-tell-to-engage-their-people/?sh=2215bed52d69>