

Quick Leadership Lessons

Little Bits

Participants sit in a circle. The group leader passes a bag of small candies (M&M's, Skittles, Jelly Bellies, etc.) around the circle, telling each person to take as many as they wish, keeping in mind that everyone should get a share. Instruct them not to eat any until they are told to do so. Once everyone has received a share of the candy, go around the circle, having each person tell one positive thing about him/herself for each piece of candy taken. It is a good idea to go around the circle with one or two things, then repeat, rather than have each person do all of their items at once. A variation is to pass a roll of toilet paper around, telling each person to take as much as they need. Then, they tell one positive thing for each square of toilet paper.

Home Sweet Home

Give each participant a sheet of blank paper. Instruct them to draw a house with a foundation, door, window, roof and chimney (anything else is optional). Then, they are to label the house in the following way:

- for the foundation, list someone or something that supports you
- for the door, write something you want the group to know about you
- for the window, put what others see when they look at you
- for the roof, explain what your greatest achievement is so far
- for the chimney, tell what you expect your greatest contribution to the world will be

After the drawings are completed, the activity can be concluded several ways. For large groups (above 15) have participants break up into triads and share their drawings, explaining the labeled items. For smaller groups (fewer than 15) have participants sit in a circle, and go around with each person sharing 2 of the 5 things on their house.

Pipe Cleaners

Provide each participant with a long pipe cleaner. After talking about goals, and the importance of setting specific, measurable goals, have each person create a shape out of their pipe cleaner which represents a goal they have for themselves. After creating the shape, divide the group into small groups of 4-8 and each person will share their goal with the others. If the group isn't too large, it could also be done with the whole group.

Leadership Sculpture

Using only their bodies, the members of a small group are to create a human sculpture which represents leadership to them. Each group demonstrates their sculpture, then explains to the rest of the group what it means.

Leadership Quilt

- Gather the following supplies:
 - large sheet of roll paper, approximately 4 x 6 feet
 - construction paper, mixed colors, at least 3 sheets per person
 - glue (bottles or sticks)
 - scissors
- Participants select three sheets of paper in different colors of their liking.

- One sheet serves as the base sheet. The other two sheets are cut into varied shapes and sizes. Using the cut up pieces, each participant spells out his/her name on the base sheet, adding other designs as desired. Glue all pieces in place.
- After completion of all individual blocks, pieces should be arranged upon the large roll sheet and glued down. Utilize group consensus to determine the final design. Place all blocks in position before gluing any sheets down, then glue all quilt/block pieces to large sheet. Allow all pieces to dry flat before hanging.
- Points for processing: when everyone contributes a little, no matter how talented each may be, the end result has a synergistic beauty; simple skills are all that are needed to create a masterpiece.

Build a Leader

Everyone carries items in their purse, wallet or pockets that have many meanings. Divide the large group into smaller groups of 4-8 people. Using only those items group members have in purse, wallet or pockets, construct an object that represents the perfect student leader. Every item should have some significance. The group should then prepare a presentation to describe and explain their creation to the rest of the group. A variation on this activity is to provide each group with a small bag of odds and ends to create their leader with.

Schedule Crunch

- Prepare copies of the activity sheet for each participant. In addition, copy the extra notes and cut them into separate pieces.
- Begin by telling participants that this is an exercise in organizational skill. Give each person a schedule sheet and read the directions. When they begin they will busily try to organize a schedule for the week. After a few minutes have passed, give each participant one of the extra notes, explaining that this just came up and must be worked in. Continue to randomly give out the extra notes every few minutes. Participants will eventually begin to feel stress at the amount of work.
- For processing, discuss methods of organization, then lead into a discussion of stress management.

Comic Strip

Using a Sunday paper's comic section, cut comic strips into individual frames, with the number depending on how many people are in the group. Randomly tape frames of strips onto participants' backs with masking tape. Without talking, everyone is to mingle and figure out the correct order for the comic strips, and line up in the right order.

Newspaper Sculpture

Small groups use newspaper and masking tape to "sculpt" an animal in 10-15 minutes that represents an effective student group. The creation must be free-standing. They present their creation to the other groups and describe the qualities of their animal. General discussion follows on the process used within each group, problems encountered, etc.