

Character and Life Skills

Video Title: Cooperation, Social Awareness

Lesson Title: Corporate to Negotiate

Grade Level: High School



Project and Purpose:

Students participate in a theatre exercise to determine the skills necessary for successful cooperation.

Essential Question:

What are the skills necessary for successful cooperation?

Materials:

- Open space for students to work
- Writing materials and scrap paper
- Access to and ability for all students to log into a Word Cloud program (a free online word cloud generator can be found at www.wordclouds.com)

NOTE: Word Cloud program and ability for students to login to send their responses to the programs should be set up before beginning. If necessary, teach this skill before the lesson.

Teacher

1. Explain to students that in today's session, they will participate in a theatre/civics activity that uses cooperation and negotiation skills.
2. Divide class into groups of 5-6 people.
3. Give each group a one minute time limit and a topic. Some topics might include:
 - In one minute, plan a new world.
 - In one minute, solve the plastic recycling issue.
 - In one minute, create a new form of government for your community.
 - In one minute, solve world hunger.
 - In one minute, write a manual for keeping peace in the world.
 - In one minute, restructure the traffic signal system for a large city.
 - In one minute, organize an autumn Olympics for all countries.
 - In one minute, plan a new food source.
 - In one minute, create a new language.
 - In one minute, design a new team sport.
 - In one minute, write a play about inequality.

4. When the one minute is up, the groups must immediately present their plan in 30 seconds. Audience groups may not speak or continue their planning while other groups are presenting. Do not give groups more time, and do not allow complaining that they cannot come up with anything. Each group must do something.
5. Immediately after the final group has presented, give them 20 seconds to find a new group of 5-6 people and give each group another topic and another minute. At the end of the time limit, have groups present again. It is worth noting that students will most likely become quite frustrated, and this is by design.
6. After this round, ask students what they did differently with the second topic. Suggest they use the skill of negotiation: discussion with the goal of coming to an agreement.
7. After this round, ask:
 - How did you negotiate this time?
 - What adjustments did you make?
 - Did everyone get a chance to talk or did one person take over?
 - How did you use cooperation skills?
8. Before repeating the process one more time, create the groups and new rules. Suggestions:
 - Put all the leaders in one group
 - Put best friends in the same or different groups.
 - Create groups based on types of shoes.
 - Restrict each member to only speaking one sentence, and they must wait until everyone in the group has spoken before they may speak again.
 - Everyone must whisper.
9. Bring the groups back to a large circle to discuss the process.
 - What was it like to be under such a short time limit?
 - Were they able to work cooperatively? Why or why not?
 - If they weren't able to work together, discuss the issues.
 - How can they change their work methods next time to eliminate the issues?
10. Give each student a piece of scrap paper and a writing tool and have them create a list of the skills they found necessary to cooperate and complete the task. Limit them to single words or phrases no longer than 3-4 words.
11. Have your Word Cloud program prepared according to the program's directions and open. Using the available technology, have students login and load their lists. The program should build the cloud as more and more lists are entered.

Conclusion:

Have students talk about what they notice in the class Word Cloud, paying close attention to the words and phrases which seem to be the "top" class selections. What does that tell them about the skills necessary for cooperation?

Consider printing out the generated Word Cloud and posting in the classroom.