

CUP STACKING TEAMWORK ACTIVITY

Age Group: Middle, High School

Learning Goals:

- Practice teamwork skills
- Learn about delegation and leadership
- Practice negotiating, problem solving, critical thinking, and collaboration

Materials: Cups, string, rubber bands

Estimated Time: 25 minutes



Activity Details

1. Break students into groups of 5. Pass out the following materials to each group:
 - 6 paper cups
 - 1 rubber band
 - 5 pieces of string
2. Each student will tie their string to the rubber band. Using their teamwork skills, students will work together to stack their cups into a pyramid with 3 cups on bottom, 2 cups in the middle, and 1 cup on top.
3. Explain that teams will have 10 minutes to build their pyramids. They are NOT permitted to use their hands to move cups. They are ONLY allowed to use their string and rubber band to pick up and move cups. Set a timer for teams.
4. Set a timer for 10 minutes and set teams off to work. Walk around the room as they complete the group task.
5. When the timer ends, bring the whole group back together and ask the following questions in a group discussion:
 - "Was anyone frustrated during this activity? How was that frustration handled?"
 - "What did you learn about yourself and the group you worked with?"
 - "Why was teamwork so important in this activity?"
 - "What other skills did your group have to use to complete this activity?"
 - "What was hard about teamwork? Communication?"
 - "What real world situations have you been in where you needed to use good team-working skills? How did you handle that situation?"
 - NOTE: Be prepared for students to give you stories as responses. That's ok! This activity primarily focuses on teamwork, but you also want to be sure to facilitate communication and public speaking skills.
6. When students respond, guide them to elaborate on their responses.
 - For example, if a student talks about how they needed to use communication skills, ask how they communicated with one another. What was their language like? How did they talk to their teammates?