

Making Teamwork Work

Duty/Concept Area

Developing Communication and Interpersonal Skills

Scenario

Students are grouped in teams. Each team is given a problem-solving scenario (such as developing a slogan and/or logo for a business/club/product). The team must work together to solve the problem, then report their solution as a team. In addition, each student will write a report to the teacher analyzing the team dynamics while solving the problem.

Big Question

How did verbal and nonverbal communication affect the ability to work together as a team?

Focused Questions

1. What teamwork skills (assigning roles, providing input, conflict resolution, team leadership, etc.) were used to solve the problem and organize the presentation?
2. What impact did verbal communication (including speaking and listening skills) have on team function and the final presentation?
3. What impact did nonverbal communication have on team function and the final presentation?
4. How does the final product model professional business communication and business etiquette?

Project-Based Assessment

- Students working together as a team to research and solve the problem, creating a written business document (e.g., memo or report) and associated oral presentation (with visual aid) to report their solution
- A business document written by each student to the teacher analyzing the team dynamics during the completion of the scenario, highlighting positive and negative examples of team skills, verbal communication, and nonverbal communication

Resources

- Documents/articles/commercial data (available on Internet or in library) on topics such as the following:
 - Problem solving
 - Decision making
 - Teamwork
 - Negotiation
 - Content information related to the specific problem at hand