



“Soft” Skills Integration

Activity Templates: Think Outside the Box

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STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After completing these activities students will...

1. Develop innovative approaches to traditional practices.
2. Identify creative uses for everyday products.

Time Required: 20 minutes

RESOURCES:

1. FFA.org

EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES NEEDED:

1. Each student should have access to a piece of paper and writing utensil.
2. The following items are recommended, but can be changed based on resources available in the classroom:
 - a. Pencil
 - b. Post-it note
 - c. Paperclip
 - d. Dry erase marker

SUGGESTED USE:

Incorporate any of these activities into the class curriculum before and during the following:

1. Team building activities.
2. Collaborative or group projects.
3. Ice breaker activity.
4. Career exploration activities.

THESE ACTIVITIES ARE ALIGNED TO THE FOLLOWING STANDARDS:

FFA Precept

- FFA.CS-M.Communication: Effectively interact with others in personal and professional settings.
- FFA.CS-N.Decision Making: Analyze a situation and execute an appropriate course of action.

Common Core-Language

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.9-10.6 Acquire and use accurately general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.

Next Generation Science Standards

- HS-ETS1-3 Evaluate a solution to a complex real-world problem based on prioritized criteria and trade-offs that account for a range of constraints, including cost, safety, reliability, and aesthetics as well as possible social, cultural, and environmental impacts.

AFNR Career Ready Practices

- CRP.01. Act as a responsible and contributing citizen and employee. Career-ready individuals understand the obligations and responsibilities of being a member of a community, and they demonstrate this understanding every day through their interactions with others.
- CRP.04. Communicate clearly, effectively, and with reason. Career-ready individuals communicate thoughts, ideas and action plans with clarity, whether using written, verbal and/or visual methods.

Partnership for 21st Century Skills

- Collaboration
- Communication
- Social and Cross-Cultural Skills
- Work Creatively with Other

ACTIVITIES:

Introduction: Oftentimes, we will find ourselves in situations that require us to think creatively to find a solution. This usually involves using everyday products in uncommon ways. Creativity skills allow us to approach situations in new ways, resulting in various outcomes. This is an important skill to possess for completing school projects, an after school job and for your future careers.

Activity #1: Uncommon Uses for Common Items

- a. On their own, students should take out a piece of paper and a writing utensil.
- b. Starting with a Post-it note, give students 30 seconds to write down as many uses as they can for a Post-it note. Encourage students to think outside the box.
- c. With a partner, students should take an additional 30 seconds to try and come up with even more uses. Uses that their partner came up with can be counted.
- d. After the 30 seconds with a partner, have students count how many uses they came up with as a pair.

*Repeat this activity using different items three times (Examples: pencil, paperclips, dry erase marker, etc.).

Activity #2: Solutions for Everyday Problems

- a. Students should identify a common issue they encounter on almost a daily basis.
- b. For the common issue they encounter, have students brainstorm three creative solutions to this issue. At this point, they do not have to necessarily be very realistic. The goal is to get students to think creatively.
- c. As a class, have five students share their common issues and "out of the box" solutions to the issue.

Leveling Up: To challenge students, if time allows, have students identify a common issue in their school or community. Once they have identified an issue, have them brainstorm possible solutions.

Far too often, we get the same results because we keep doing the same thing. Don't be afraid to think outside of the box to develop solutions. These ideas sometimes end up being the best ideas!