



“Soft” Skills Integration

Activity Templates: Creativity

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STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After completing these activities students will...

1. Understand strategies that are useful in the creative thinking process.
2. Discuss the importance of creative thinking.
3. Brainstorm multiple solutions for a problem.

TIME REQUIRED: 20 to 30 minutes per activity, 3 activities included

RESOURCES:

1. FFA.org
2. Video: “Creative Test” (<https://youtu.be/aH2ll5bwpKw>)
3. Article: “40 Uses of the Paperclip” (<http://www.samplestuff.com/2011/09/40-uses-of-the-paperclip/>)

EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES NEEDED:

1. For activity #1: one copy of each of the five images, and a printout of the volunteer instructions cut into strips.
2. For activity #2: a printout of the scenario descriptions, cut into strips.
3. For activity #1: a printout of the impromptu topics, cut into strips.

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

1. Career units
2. Leadership units
3. Collaborative or group projects
4. Problem solving activities

THESE ACTIVITIES ARE ALIGNED TO THE FOLLOWING STANDARDS:

FFA Precept

- FFA.PL-C.Vision: Visualize the future and how to get there.

Common Core- Math

- MP2: Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
- MP3: Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.

Common Career Technical Core

- CRP.05. Consider the environmental, social and economic impact of decisions. Career-ready individuals understand the interrelated nature of their actions and regularly make decisions that positively impact and/or mitigate negative impact on other people, organizations and the environment.
- CRP.06. Demonstrate creativity and innovation. Career-ready individuals regularly think of ideas that solve problems in new and different ways, and they contribute those ideas in a useful and productive manner to improve their organization.
- CRP.08. Utilize critical thinking to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them. Career-ready individuals readily recognize problems in the workplace, understand the nature of the problem, and devise effective plans to solve the problem.

Partnership for 21st Century Skills

- Collaboration
- Communication
- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- Initiative and Self-Direction
- Productivity and Accountability
- Think Creatively
- Work Creatively with Others

ACTIVITIES:

The ability to thinking creatively is an essential skill for success; it is also a skill that is consistently on an employer's top ten list of most desired skills. Creativity is necessary in agriculture, the workforce and our personal lives. The development of these skills in students is essential to their future success.

Activity #1: Creative Thinking Tips

- a. Show the video "Only 3% of people pass this creative test, can you?" The direct url is <https://youtu.be/aH2Il5bwpKw>.
 - i. Pause the video after the problem is explained, and have students brainstorm solutions in pairs or small groups. After everyone has shared their solutions with the class watch the solution provided in the video. Pause the video again to discuss if other ideas would work, and if any ideas the class developed are also viable solutions.
 - ii. Continue watching the video so students can learn three tips for increasing creativity.
- b. Discuss the tips provided in the video, then have the students share their own strategies for creative thinking.

Activity #2: The Mighty Paperclip

- a. Ask students to list as many uses for a paperclip as they can think of in **one** minute. This will require students to think outside the box.
- b. Have students share what ideas they came up with, and as a class, discuss what made this activity difficult and what was easy about it.
 - i. If students had a hard time listing more than a few uses, share the "40 Uses of a Paperclip" available at <http://www.samplestuff.com/2011/09/40-uses-of-the-paperclip/>.
- c. Discuss the concept that sometimes when we are faced with something familiar, whether it's a paperclip or a problem that we've known about for a long time, it can be hard to come up with new ideas because our focus has become too narrow. Sometimes we need to let ourselves think of wild, and seemingly crazy, ideas so that a more reasonable idea will become obvious.

Activity #3: Let's Start a Brainstorm!

- a. Give each student a copy of the "Let's Create a Brainstorm!" worksheet. Using this worksheet, students, either alone or in small groups, will brainstorm solutions for various problems in agriculture. You can use the list of problems below, or students can brainstorm solutions to problems specific to your school, community or state.
 - i. Remind students that these ideas do not have to seem practical, realistic or feasible! They just need to come up with as many ideas as they possibly can in the time allotted.
 - ii. Example Problems:
 1. Producing more food on less land.
 2. Growing crops with less water.
 3. Poor public perception of biotechnology and GMOs.
 4. Developing a sustainable form of energy.
- b. *If each group is working on the same problem:* After each student or group has created their list of solutions share the ideas as a class and record all the ideas on the board or a piece of flipchart paper. See if anyone has any ideas that did not make it on the board. As a class discuss what ideas are possible given resources available today.
 - i. Most likely, there will be at least two feasible ideas that are developed.
- c. *If each group is working on different problems:* After each student or group has created their list of solutions share the ideas as a class and record the ideas on the board or a piece of flipchart paper. Allow other groups to add any ideas they might have. As a class discuss what ideas are possible (given resources available today) for each problem.
- d. If students brainstormed solutions for a problem specific to your school, community or state, discuss what steps to take to for implement the solution.

Name: _____

Let's Start a Brainstorm!

DIRECTIONS:

Develop as many solutions as possible for the problem assigned to you. Remember, you are just brainstorming here, so ideas can seem crazy and unrealistic!

