



High School

National FFA Organization

Lesson HS.57

BUILDING MUTUAL INTEREST

Unit. Stage Two of Development—WE

Problem Area. How Do I Build Relationships with Others?

Precepts. **H2:.** Present self appropriately in various settings.

National Standards. NPH-H.9-12.7 — Health Advocacy — Demonstrate the ability to work cooperatively when advocating for healthy communities.



Student Learning Objectives. As a result of this lesson, the student will ...

1. Define mutual interest and explain why it is important to build mutual interest with other people.



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Time. Instruction time for this lesson: 50 minutes.



Resources

Maxwell, John C. *Becoming a Person of Influence*. Nashville, Tennessee. Thomas Nelson, Inc., 1984.
National FFA Essential Learnings, 2003.



Tools, Equipment, and Supplies

- ✓? One incentive treat for each student; this can be candy, soda pop, homework passes, or study aids, pencil, keychain, etc.
- ✓ Writing surface
- ✓ Colored paper—one sheet per four students
- ✓ Markers or colored pencils—one set per four students
- ✓ Masking tape
- ✓ 1 ball of yarn



Key Terms. The following terms are presented in this lesson and appear in bold italics:

- ▶ Mutual Interest



Interest Approach

Place the incentive treats in hidden spots around the classroom before students enter. Stand in the hall with your classroom door closed. Meet the students in the hall and do not allow them to enter the room.



There are some wonderful surprises inside the classroom. I need you to be like sleuths or detectives. Your goal is to find the wonderful surprises that I have in the classroom. When I say, “go,” you will have exactly three minutes to find the surprises. Once you find a surprise, hold onto it and take your seat. At the end of three minutes, we will show each other what we have found. Everyone should find something, but if you do not find anything, please let me know. Ready? Go!

Time the activity for three minutes. If they need more time for the activity, continue.



? Bring your items to the table. Everyone take a few moments to look at all of the things that your classmates have found. How many of you see something that someone else has that you would like to have? How could you get that item from the other person?

Possible answers include: offer to trade; money; convince them that what I have is better



How many of you see something that someone else has that you would like to have.





What are some benefits of finding ways for everyone to enjoy each other's items? Possible answers include: you could enjoy a little bit of everything instead of just one thing; find someone who trusts you to share or trade



How many of you would like to know how to get what you want and still help others get what they want? Let's discuss it. This will also teach us how to build a mutual interest with other people so that we can better them as well as ourselves.

SUMMARY OF CONTENT AND TEACHING STRATEGIES

Objective 1. Define mutual interest and explain why it is important to build mutual interest.



Will someone give the class their definition of mutual interest? Possible answers include: two people liking the same things



I would like for you to write the information you are about to see in your notebooks.

I. **Mutual Interest** is the common belief, interest or involvement two or more people share.

A. Agriculture and FFA is our mutual interest in this class!



What are some of your mutual interests with other students in this class? Possible answers include: agriculture; FFA; school; sports; music



We have all experienced mutual interest. FFA and agriculture are mutual interests that we share. Think about the following question for a moment.

FFA and agriculture are mutual interests that we share. Think about the following question for a moment.

Do you feel that you have a different relationship with your FFA friends than you do with other friends? Why or why not?

Possible yes answer explanations may include: because we spend a great deal of time together, we have a lot more in common than some of my other friends



Possible no explanations include: these are not my only friends; I have just as good friends in sports, music, and drama



What does it mean to build mutual interest with others? Possible answers include: getting to know someone; being involved in others' lives;; connecting with others



Building mutual interest is so important. We want to have meaningful relationships with our friends and family members, and in turn, we want others to be sincerely interested in us. In fact, you now have the opportunity to build mutual interest among your classmates.



When I say, “go,” we will begin counting off the numbers one through five. I will start with the student that is sitting the farthest away from me. Each person gets one number. For example, if the person beside you is “one,” you will be “two,” and so on until the number five. Then we start over with one. What questions do you have? Go.

Give students about 20 seconds to number



When I say, “Move,” you will have 30 seconds to locate all of the people with your number and find an area to work in the classroom. Please take something to write with. Move.

Time the relocating for 30 seconds.

Use Hieroglyphics Moment



Your group will spend the next 10 minutes developing a logo for your team. This logo must have five pictures that represent common interest, or mutual interests you all share. Please draw pictures to represent what you have in common. Everyone can be artistic, even if you feel like you have no drawing ability! Be creative with this, and use the colored paper and pencils to make these awesome descriptions of what you have in common. What questions do you have? Once you are finished, you will present, and I will hang them in the classroom for a display. If there are no further questions, begin!

Time and monitor the activity for 10 minutes. Give a two-minute warning. Spend about five minutes sharing. Each group will have the opportunity to share with the entire class. They will come to the front of the room and give a simple presentation. Go longer with time if there is good discussion or if it takes longer to get through the groups. At the end of class, hang the pictures on a board or wall to display of that class' common interests.

Process the activity by asking the following questions:



Was it difficult to come up with five things that the members in your group had in common? Why?



lot of the same activities



How did your group finally decide on what they had in common?

Possible answers include: we drew the information from a pile; we numbered them from most in common to least in common



Now that you have discovered your common interests, let's discuss how we can build mutual interests with other people. Capture these thoughts in your notebook. Please take your seats.

Note for instructor: Connecting with others on a personal level can be explained to students if they are unclear on the meaning of the term. Connecting on a personal level is knowing more than the person/d birthday or favorite color; it is knowing their hopes, dreams, fears, and stories.

I. Building Mutual Interests

- A. Connect with others on a personal level
 - 1. Get to know people
 - 2. Be interested in listening and learning
- B. Develop new interests
 - 1. Try a new hobby
 - 2. Encourage your friends to try new activities (like FFA!)
- C. Respect differences
- D. Continue building the relationship



Let's take a look at the items on the overhead. Find a partner sitting near you. When I say, "talk," the two of you must decide which statement in the outline is the most important step in building mutual interest. Is it connecting on a personal level, developing new hobbies, respecting differences, or continuing to build the relationship? Take about two minutes and decide which one is the most important. Be ready to explain your choice to the entire class. Talk.

Monitor the activity for two minutes. Students should be coming to the conclusion that all of them are important, although some student groups may have an answer for what is the most important. The intent is that the groups will discuss why one step is more important, and why they feel that step is important.



Okay, let's share what we discovered by sharing with the class. Transfer the information that is shared by the groups into your notebooks.

Share for two minutes.



We discovered during our discussion that all of these components are important when building mutual interest with other people. Keep in mind that the most important aspect is to build mutual interests with others that will help you stay well rounded, active and involved in different activities with many friends.



 When I say, “circle up,” we will make a circle in the center of the room. Circle Up.

Time activity for 10 seconds

 I will give one person this ball of yarn. That person will say one thing about you like I love dirt bikes, or I have been to a state convention. If anyone in our circle can relate to that, snap twice. The person holding the ball of yarn keeps hold of the strand and tosses the yarn gently to the person who snapped. If more than one person has that mutual interest, pass it to each person. We will continue until everyone has a piece of yarn. You are only allowed to get the ball of yarn once! Ready? Begin.

Conduct activity for two to three minutes. Make sure each student gets a strand of yarn.

 Look at the string. What do you notice? Allow students to respond. We are all connected in some way. The string drew the lines of mutual interest in this class! Note that it is important for each person’s interest to contribute to the group. Let’s take a moment and reflect on that. Then when I count to three, let the web of mutual interest drop to the floor. One, two, three. Return to your seats. Let’s take a look back at what we have discovered today. When you entered the room, you were asked to search for something exciting. You found an array of prizes. Some of you wanted to trade them with another person. What did you learn from that activity?

Possible answers include: to get what you want; to build a mutual interest

 Let’s take a look back at what we have discovered today. When you entered the room today, you were asked to search the room for something exciting. You found an array of prizes. Some of you traded them with one another. What did you learn from that activity. *Possible answers include: to get what you want; to build a mutual interest* We also discussed some activities that can help us to build mutual interest with others. We discovered that it is important to connect with other people on a _____ level?

Answer is: personal level

 We talked about developing new interests and hobbies, as well as _____ and _____.
Answers include: encouraging friends to try a new hobby; respecting differences Cartographer Moment to review the information in today’s lesson.

►Extended Classroom Activity:

The class will define one activity or hobby (other than agriculture of FFA) that is a mutual interest of every one in the room.

►FFA Activity:

Students will choose someone in their chapter to develop a specific mutual interest relating to FFA. For example, if two students enjoy general livestock judging, maybe those two students can try working on oral reasoning or public speaking.

►SAE Activity:

Students will define mutual interest areas in their SAE projects as a class.

✓ Evaluation

Assign the following homework or in-class assignment for students. This will be used as the assessment tool for this lesson.



You are about to be given an amazing opportunity. You will develop a masterminded plan to build mutual interest. Construct a road map that builds mutual interest. Use the outline we talked about today to model your assignment; however, you are not allowed to use words. You will use icons or pictures instead of terms on your map. Your road map will lead you from “home” to “Mutual Interests.” How do you get there? What stops and turns to you encounter along the way? Make your map catchy and easy to remember. We will have volunteers share their creations with the class.

Answers to Assessment:

The activity should be evaluated on the following criteria to a point value to be determined by the teacher.

Creativity

Completeness



MUTUAL INTEREST

Mutual interest is the common belief, interest, or involvement two or more people share.

◆ Agriculture and FFA is our mutual interest!



WHAT ARE SOME REASONS THAT WE MAY WANT TO BUILD RELATIONSHIPS.

◆ **Friendship and companions**

→ School friends, church friends, club friends or team-mates

◆ **Work or professional**

→ Boss, supervisors, co-workers

◆ **Community activities and involvement**

→ 4-H, grange, youth groups, volunteer opportunities

◆ **Mutual interests between two people**

→ Someone with a common interest or hobby you have
(Dance team, choir, athletics)



BUILDING MUTUAL INTERESTS

◆ **Connect with others on a personal level**

➔ **Get to know people**

➔ **Be interested in listening and learning**

◆ **Develop new interests**

➔ **Try a new hobby**

➔ **Encourage your friends to try new activities (like FFA!)**

◆ **Respect differences**

◆ **Continue building the relationship**



WAYS TO STRENGTHEN AND MAINTAIN RELATIONSHIPS

◆ Take time out

→ Make time for the people that matter most to you.

Share your time with others who may need someone to care about them.

◆ Do the little things that matter most

→ Send notes, make phone calls, and stay in touch with friends and family.

◆ Attend activities and events together

→ You probably have a lot in common with someone you consider a friend, so spend time doing mutual hobbies.

→ Movies, music, sports, youth groups, traveling, FFA

◆ Have meaningful conversations

→ World issues, religion, traveling

