



High School

National FFA Organization

Lesson HS.74

THE IMPORTANCE OF ATTITUDE

Unit. Stage Two of Development—We

Problem Area. How Do We Play as a Team?

Precepts. **B5:** Participate effectively as a team member.

National Standards. NPH-H.9-12.5 Using Communication Skills to Promote Health — Demonstrate ways to communicate care, consideration, and respect of self and others.



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

- 1 Describe why attitude is important to a team.
- 2 Identify behaviors demonstrating positive attitudes.
- 3 Outline ways to boost team attitudes.



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Time. Instruction time for this lesson: 50 minutes.



Resources

National FFA Organization's Essential Learnings, 2003.



Tools, Equipment, and Supplies

- ✓ Identify an Attitude—HS.74.AS.A—one per student
- ✓ Overhead Projector & Transparencies—HS.74.TM.A, HS.74.TM.B, & HS.74.TM.C
- ✓ Student Evaluation—HS.74.Assess—one per student
- ✓ Writing Surface
- ✓ Writing Tools



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

▶ Attitude



Interest Approach



We have all had quite an education about attitude just by living. Our parents tell us, “You had better change that attitude!” Our teachers tell us, “Well, if you would improve that attitude ...” Society tells us, “Kids today just don’t have the right attitude.” There is so much said about attitude, it can all get rather confusing. Is attitude a good thing or a bad thing.



When I say, “Brainstorm,” turn to your neighbor. Spend a moment discussing whether attitude is a good thing or a bad thing. Stop talking when I say, “Stop.” Brainstorm!
Give students a moment to discuss.



Stop. I heard some wonderful comments about attitude. When I call on you, be prepared to share what your pair decided.

Call on three to five pairs to share with the class.



Many of us decided attitude can be a very good thing. It helps us do so much and encourage so many. Open your note books and capture the following definition.
Show HS.74.TM.A.

I. Attitude: one’s mental state.



As we continue with our discussion about attitude, remember our class consensus about how attitude can be a very good thing. Be dedicated learners, committed to finding out how attitude can help enhance your abilities as a team player as we work together today.



SUMMARY OF CONTENT AND TEACHING STRATEGIES

Objective 1. Describe why attitude is important to a team.



Knowing about attitude is not enough. We interact with so many people in many different situations. This knowledge is best practiced when we work as part of a team.

Distribute one copy of the “I know!” activity sheet (HS.74.AS.A) to each student. Provide the following instructions:



Write or draw why you believe attitude is important to a team. Turn your sheets over when you're finished.

Allow students 45 seconds to complete this portion of the activity. When the students are ready to continue, provide the following instructions:



With your eyes only, locate one person in the room you would like to share your thoughts with. When I say, “Share,” stand up, take your activity sheet, and go directly to that person. Share what you have created on your activity sheet for one minute. When I say, “Return,” end all conversation and return quietly to your seats. Share!

At the end of time, say, “Return!”



We have all included some very insightful thoughts on your sheets. I am happy to see the great effort you are exercising today.

Have students capture the following content in their notebooks and show HS.74.TM.B.

II. Is attitude important.

A. The importance to a team:

1. Allows work to get done
2. Provides for efficiency
3. Calls for all members to give their best
4. Draws on the various personalities represented to be successful



I am sensing a highly positive attitude from each of you as we cover the material. Continue with that mind-set as we learn those behaviors that show an attitude to be positive.



Objective 2. Identify behaviors demonstrating positive attitudes.



Just as a bird-watcher will observe the qualities and characteristics of a winged species to identify it, we, too, will observe those behaviors that tell whether an attitude is positive. Using the activity sheet entitled “Identify an Attitude” (HS.74.AS.B), take a few moments to write down some easily observed behaviors that identify an attitude as “positive.”

The responses will vary. Upon completion, have students capture the following content in their notebooks and show HS.74.TM.C.

III. What does it look like.

A. Behaviors of a positive attitude:

1. Desire
2. Commitment
3. Hard Work
4. Positive Outlook
5. Confidence
6. Initiative



We have some amazing minds in our midst. Way to go! I am so excited at your ability to recognize the value of the behaviors that surround you. Let’s continue constructing knowledge, and experience ways we can boost the attitude of a team.

Objective 3. Outline ways to boost team attitudes.



Many of us are quite aware of what it takes to deflate an attitude. At times, it can be nothing more than a bad mood, or merely dwelling on the negative in a situation.

Use the Little Professor Moment strategy to cover the following content. Have students capture the following content in their notebooks and show HS.74.TM.D.

IV. What can be done.

A. Ways to boost team attitudes:

1. Think of others first and self second.
2. Work for the good of the cause.
3. Seek team harmony.
4. Do not react to situations.
5. Actively listen to others.
6. Remember that change begins with you!

Break students into groups of four to five. Provide the following instructions:





When we think of the ultimate “attitude boosters,” cheerleaders undoubtedly come to the fore- front of our minds. With their enthusiasm and pep, cheerleaders do their jobs well.



When I say, “Ready. Okay!” turn to your team. Develop a cheer to boost team attitudes. Your cheer might look like one the cheerleading squad would create for the football team, including movements.



When I say, “Yea!” cease all talking and refocus on me. You have two minutes to complete this activity. Ready. Okay!

Provide regular time warnings for the class. Give cheers like, “Let’s go! Let’s go! L-E-T-S G-O!” or “We got it! We got it!” to add to the festive nature of the activity. When time is up, say “stop,” and begin to call on each group to share their cheers. Be sure to follow each one up with a train whistle cheer. Teacher must lead by using the arm movement of pulling the whistle and shouting “Wah-hoo!”



It has been exciting, uncovering the information about “attitude.” Many people in the world seem to use the word so insignificantly in conversation, usually focusing on its negative aspects. As we have learned, attitude carries extraordinary power to boost a team’s ability to work effectively and efficiently. As we live each day, let’s continue to observe our behaviors and ensure they will have a positive effect on the attitudes of others.



Review/Summary



In your notebook, write down the three most important things you learned about attitude. Describe the impact you believe this information will have on your effectiveness as a member of a team. Be sure to think about why attitude is important, positive behaviors, and attitude boosters. Share your work with one member of the class.



Application

►Extended Classroom Activity:

Have students write one goal they have toward developing an attitude worth catching. They should display this goal on their mirror and consult it each morning for a week, mentally referring to it throughout the day to keep the goal fresh. At the end of one week, have students write reflection in their notebooks, discussing the result of their goals, as well as how it improved, worsened, or stayed the same.



►FFA Activity:

Students can join a Career Development Team. They should practice the various tactics outlined for working with different attitudes.

►SAE Activity:

Help students resolve to implement a positive attitude toward their work. They should create a journal to be kept with their record books, outlining how their attitude directly relates to the outcome of each task undertaken. After a few weeks, have students evaluate their journals and share their findings.

✓ Evaluation

A written test is included to measure Objectives 1, 2, and 3.

Answers to Assessment:

1. Attitude: one's mental state.
2. Answers will vary.
3. Include two of the following:
 - Allows work to get done
 - Provides for efficiency
 - Calls for all members to give their best
 - Draws on the various personalities represented to be successful
4. Include three of the following:
 - Think of others first and self second.
 - Work for the good of the cause.
 - Seek team harmony.
 - Do not react to situations.
 - Actively listen to others.
 - Remember that change begins with you!
5. Yes! Attitude carries extraordinary power to boost a team's ability to work effectively and efficiently.



THE IMPORTANCE OF ATTITUDE

1. What does the term “attitude” mean.
2. Is attitude a positive or negative thing. Why.
3. How can attitude be important to a team setting.
4. Name three ways one can boost team attitudes.
5. Is attitude important to a team.



ATTITUDE

◆ *Attitude: one's mental state.*



IS ATTITUDE IMPORTANT.

The importance to a team:

- ◆ **Allows work to get done**
- ◆ **Provides for efficiency**
- ◆ **Calls for all members to give their best**
- ◆ **Draws on the various personalities represented to be successful**



WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE.

Behaviors of a positive attitude:

- ◆ **Desire**
- ◆ **Commitment**
- ◆ **Hard Work**
- ◆ **Positive Outlook**
- ◆ **Confidence**
- ◆ **Initiative**



WHAT CAN BE DONE.

Ways to boost team attitudes:

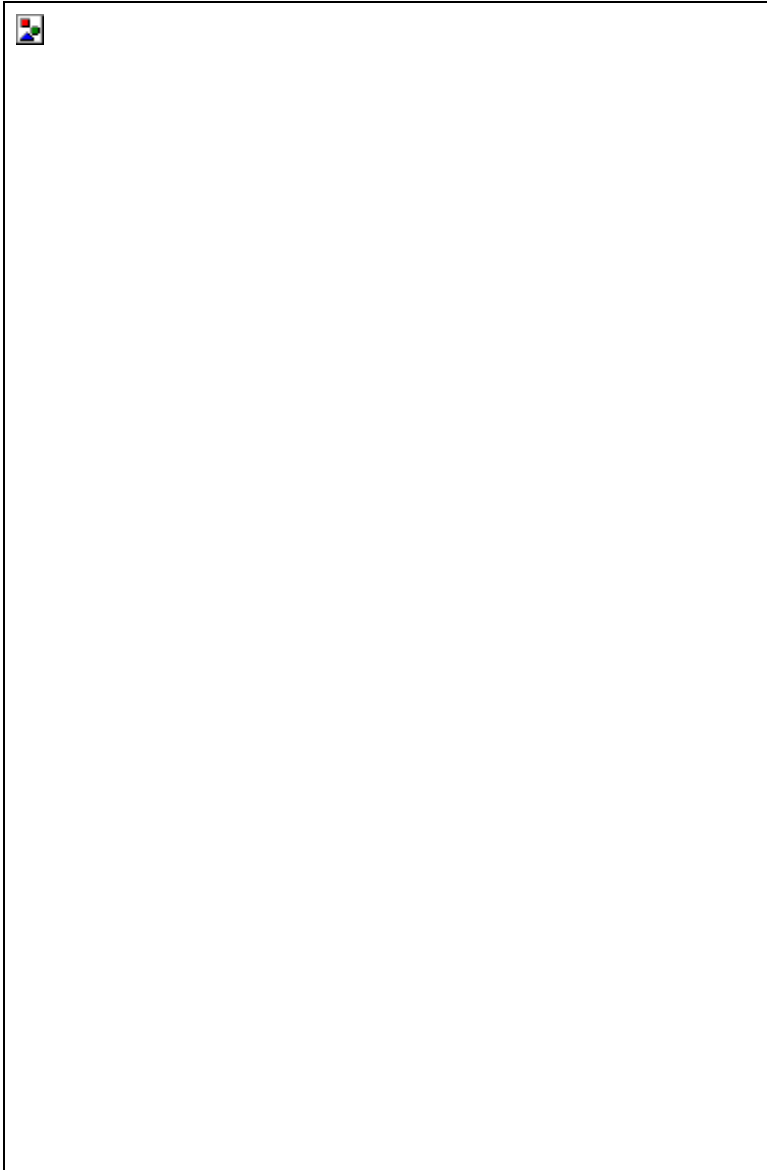
- ◆ **Think of others first and self second.**
- ◆ **Work for the good of the cause.**
- ◆ **Seek team harmony.**
- ◆ **Do not react to situations.**
- ◆ **Actively listen to others.**
- ◆ **Remember that change begins with you!**



I KNOW!

► **Instructions:**

On the magnifying glass below, write or draw why you believe attitude is important to a team. Turn your activity sheet over when finished, signaling your readiness to continue.



IDENTIFY AN ATTITUDE

Take a few moments to write down some easily observed behaviors that identify an attitude as “positive.” Be sure to include where you witnessed those behaviors being exhibited.

Behavior?	Where Exhibited?	How Does it Lead to Positive Attitude?

