

Mountain Guide Certification

MGS 5 - Where's My Focus?

Instructions: FFA officers are often involved in activities outside of FFA. Many of these activities are productive and good to be involved in. However, sometimes it is easy to fall into the trap of being over committed by being involved in too many things or becoming so focused on one area that other areas of your life suffer.

1. The following is a list of activities that may require your focus. Ask yourself, "Do I focus on any of these so much that it has a negative effect on other areas of my life?" Circle the ones that you may tend to "over focused".

- a. Friends
- b. Sports
- c. School work
- d. Boyfriend/Girlfriend
- e. Part-time job
- f. FFA
- g. Other organizations
- h. Other _____

2. Choose at least two of the areas listed above and list a problem that each might create by placing too much focus on them.

Area _____ Problem _____

Area _____ Problem _____

3. **Making Tough Choices:** Read the following scenarios and circle which response you would choose. Be ready to explain why you made that choice. There is no right or wrong answer.

- A. You are involved in sports and practice takes place right after school for three hours a night. The officer team needs to plan a recruitment activity for Jr. High students. Everyone can get together at 7:00 pm on Monday night; however, your chorus instructor has slotted you to practice your solo for the district music contest at this same time and he has no other time slots available. The music contest is on Tuesday.

Your choices:

1. Tell your fellow officers you cannot attend the meeting.
2. Tell your music instructor you cannot practice that night.
3. Other options? (Explain if you have another option).

Why did you make this choice?

- B. You work after school from 4:00 pm until 8:00 pm, Mondays and Thursdays. Tuesday night is usually open for you. The second Tuesday of each month are FFA meetings beginning at 7:00 pm. You are serving as secretary. On Tuesday afternoon of the meeting, your boss calls you and asks you to work a shift for another employee. You will have to work until 8:00 pm.

Your choices:

1. Tell the boss you have a prior commitment to the FFA meeting.
2. Tell your fellow officers you can't be at the meeting
3. Other options? (Explain if you have another option.)

Why did you make this choice?

4. As an FFA officer, FFA should be one of your priorities. However, it is possible for several important priorities to conflict, placing you in the position of making a tough choice. It is possible that focus on each of your priorities may shift from time to time depending on the situation. Discuss with the other team members the following:

- A. As a group, come up with two examples when switching your focus from FFA to other activities would be appropriate.

Example 1:

Example 2:

- B. As a group, come up with two examples when switching your focus from FFA to other activities **would not be** appropriate.

Example 1:

Example 2: