

Name: _____

Aligned to the following standards:

FFA.PL-A; FFA.PL-D; FFA.CS-M; CCSS.ELA.W.9-10.4; CCSS.ELA-SL.9-10.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.6; CRP.04.

The Invitation We Miss

Part 1

Directions:

Answer the following questions while watching the retiring address of the 2023-24 National FFA President Amara Jackson, "The Invitation We Miss." The video is available at <https://vimeo.com/1024090361>.

1. Fill in the blank.

_____ leads to disconnection, but _____ leads to a connected life.

2. What did Amara get asked to do her junior year of high school?

3. How did Amara feel deep down at her grandma's funeral?

4. Distraction played a key role in missing a connection with her grandmother. What is your biggest distraction?

5. Amara states distractions are everywhere. What are some of the distractions she lists?

6. How is your biggest distraction (Question 4) holding you back from connecting with the people around you?

7. Why did Jackie feel like she belonged?

8. How does Amara check for awareness?

9. How can you check for awareness?

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Part 2

Directions:

In Amara Jackson's retiring address, she talks about the importance of an undistracted, aware and connected life. In this activity, you will work in pairs to understand how distractions affect relationships and personal growth. Each pair should take turns as the speaker and listener.

1. Round 1: One student will act as the "speaker" and the other as the "listener." During Round 1 the speaker will share a story about a recent experience. The listener pretends to be distracted (e.g., looking at their phone, doodling, fidgeting).
2. Round 2: The same speaker shares again, but this time the listener gives their full attention, using active listening skills (e.g., eye contact, nodding, asking questions).
3. Round 3: Switch roles as the "speaker" and the other as the "listener." Repeat Rounds 1 and 2. Once completed, answer the reflection questions below.
4. Reflection:
 - a. Speaker: How did it feel to be ignored versus listened to?
 - b. Listener: What did you notice about your focus and engagement?
 - c. How do distractions affect your ability to connect with others?
 - d. Why do you think being present is sometimes called a "missed invitation"?
 - e. How can we train ourselves to accept this invitation more often?
 - f. Give a specific example of how you can be more present this week.

