

Name: _____

Building a Web

Aligned to the following standards:

CS.05, FFA.PL-A1, FFA.PL-A3, FFA.PL-A5, FFA.PL-A8, FFA.PL-C1, FFA.PL-D2, FFA.PL-D3, FFA.PL-E3, FFA.PL-F1, FFA.PL-F2, FFA.PL-F3, FFA.PG-I1, FFA.PG-I2, FFA.PG-I5, FFA.PG-J1, FFA.PG-J2, FFA.PG-J3, FFA.PG-J4, FFA.PG-K3, FFA.CS-M1, FFA.CS-M2, FFA.CS-N4, FFA.CS-O2, FFA.CS-O3, AG5, AGC08.01, AGC09.01, AGC09.02, CCSS.RI.9-10.1, CCSS.RI.9-10.2, CCSS.RI.9-10.4, CCSS.W.9-10.1, CCSS.W.9-10.2, CCSS.W.9-10.4, CCSS.W.9-10.7, CCSS.W.9-10.8, CCSS.W.9-12.9, CCSS.SL.9-10.1, CCSS.RST.9-10.8, CCSS.RST.9-10.9, CCSS.WHST.9-10.1, CCSS.WHST.9-10.2, CCSS.WHST.9-10.4, CCSS.WHST.9-10.6, CRP.02, CRP.04, CRP.07, CRP.08, CRP.10, CRP.11

Directions:

Using the article "The Power of Networking: How to Build Meaningful Connections" (<https://www.agcareers.com/ag-and-food-career-guide/2025/US/21/>), complete the activity below.

Pre-Reading

Answer these questions before reading the article.

1. Do you believe networking is more about *who* you know or *what* you know? Why?
2. Think of someone in agriculture (a farmer, extension agent, feed store owner, agriculture teacher, etc.). How might networking be important to that person's work?

Post-Reading

Answer these questions after reading the article.

1. What is true networking?
2. Describe the negative reputation associated with networking. Why do you think this exists?
3. What is the truth about networking?
4. Give your own personal example for each of the following:
 - a. Connection:
 - b. Collaboration:
 - c. Community:
5. How is networking more than a task?

Name: _____

6. List four communities that thrive because of networking connections, and explain how you can use this community to build connections for your future career.

<i>Community</i>	<i>How can you use this community to build connections for your future career?</i>

7. Based on the list of how strong networks can help you, which do you feel can help you the most? Why?
8. There are several tips shared to help reduce pressure and build confidence when networking. Which tip would help you out the most? Why?
9. Create your own personal conversation starter.
10. Create your own personal, polite exit line.
11. Following up with a new contact is where the real connection is built. How would you prefer to follow up with someone? Why?
12. Explain your initial thoughts or feelings for each of the following tips.
- a. Don't cling to your crew:
 - b. Quality over quantity:
 - c. Be inclusive:
 - d. Always be prepared:

Name: _____

13. Why should networking be part of your routine?

14. Networking is about being intentional. What are two distractions that you think could get in the way? Explain.

Dig Deeper

Map out your current network of people by creating a “web” of connections. You will identify who is already part of your support system, analyze which areas of your network are strong or weak and reflect on how you can grow your connections to support your future.

Using the space provided, create your web of connections. In the center of the space, write your name. Then draw branches outward for the different areas of your life, such as FFA, school, sports, family, work, community, etc. On each branch, list the people you know who are or could be part of your “network” in each area. Try to include at least 10 names total — the more the better!

Web of Connections

1. Which part of your network is the strongest (has the most connections)?

Name: _____

2. Which part of your network is the weakest or missing altogether?

3. Circle three people on your web who could help you in your future career or leadership goals. Explain why for each of them below.
 - a.

 - b.

 - c.

4. How could you expand or strengthen your network over the next year?