

GROUP ACTIVITY

ACTIVITY NAME: LESSONS IN READING PLANS AND COMMUNICATING

PURPOSE:

Students will learn the importance of precise communication, listening and understanding through a drawing replication challenge. The activity simulates real-world scenarios in manufacturing and other industries where every detail matters in following a plan or blueprint.

TIME: 15 MINUTES

MATERIALS NEEDED (PER GROUP):

- 1 dry erase board or mounted easel with colored markers
- 1 printed drawing (per group) with at least 5 distinct features — examples:
 - Random shapes with different outline/fill colors
 - A simple house with multiple features
 - Other drawings with variety in size, color, and placement



DIRECTIONS:

1. Split students into groups of 5 (adjust as needed).
2. In each group, choose one student to stand at the dry erase board or easel with their back to the rest of the group. Give that student colored markers.
3. Give the remaining students a printed drawing. They should review it together.
4. Assign each student one distinct part of the drawing to describe to the student at the board. Allow 2 minutes for the group to decide who will lead each portion of the drawing.
5. Without showing the drawing or letting the board student overhear earlier conversations, have each student take turns giving instructions to replicate their part of the drawing.
6. Emphasize that the instructions must be complete and specific — for example, instead of “draw a circle,” they should specify:
 - a. Size
 - b. Location on the page
 - c. Outline color
 - d. Fill color
7. Once every student has given directions, compare the completed drawing with the original.
8. Optionally, allow students to make corrections or “amendments” to their parts after seeing the results.

DISCUSS:

- What happened when directions lacked detail?
- How did your team decide what information was most important to share?
- What communication strategies worked best?
- How does this activity relate to reading and following work plans or blueprints in manufacturing?
- Why is it “hard to overcommunicate” when striving to meet expectations and succeed as a team?

ACTIVITY CREDITS:

Special thank you to Stark County
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this activity.

