

Professional Development Activity on Teamwork

This introductory professional development activity helps members practice engaging as a team for meaningful growth. The activity builds on the rationale that effective teams pursue professional development and that vulnerability is necessary for optimal teamwork.

Time Frame

The team should allow fifteen to thirty minutes for this activity.

Materials

This activity requires a facilitator and the quotable quotes. Distribute the quotes to each participating team member or display publicly.

Process

One team member should volunteer to serve as facilitator. The facilitator should take the following four steps.

1. Ask team members to view the list of quotes.
2. Pose the following: “As you think about the school counselor and administrator as a team, which quote best describes the team from your perspective? Why?” If a member has a quote he or she prefers to use instead, he or she may do so.
3. Ask each team member to volunteer his or her answer and rationale. Other team members may ask questions for clarity but should judge no answer.
4. Restate the common areas of strength, challenge, or both that team members share and how this information might help the team in the future. Effective communication and trust often define any team’s future. Discuss the following points: Were participants willing to truthfully share and be vulnerable? Were the team’s quote choices closely aligned? What differences were there? Did members judge or value other responses?

Results

Participation in this activity strengthens trust among team members, encourages truthful disclosure, emphasizes team members’ differences, and contributes to stronger relationships, which builds a more effective team.

Quotable Quotes

- “When you cease to dream, you cease to live.” (—*Malcolm Forbes*)
- “Life should be a World’s Fair of delights.” (—*Walt Disney*)
- “Necessity is the mother of taking chances.” (—*Mark Twain*)
- “Deliberation is the function of the many; action is the function of one.”
(—*Charles DeGaulle*)
- “This very moment—this is the moment I can make a difference.” (—*Lionel Ketchian*)
- “Leaders gain strength by sharing strength.” (—*Tom Armstrong*)
- “What counts in life can’t be counted.” (—*Unknown*)
- “A little simplification would be the first step toward rational living, I think.”
(—*Eleanor Roosevelt*)
- “You have to know what you’re good at and what you’re bad at.” (—*Dineh Mohajer*)
- “Find the facts before finding faults.” (—*Unknown*)
- “It’s in going into the darkness that we find enlightenment.” (—*Hector Aristizábal*)
- “Change is not likely; it’s inevitable.” (—*Barbara Sher*)
- “Nothing liberates our greatness like the desire to help, the desire to serve.”
(—*Marianne Williamson*)