



## Unit: Engaging and Empowering Others

**Skill 34: Motivating****Activity A: A Role for Everyone****Activity Skills:**

Small group interaction, role playing and discussion.

**Leadership Skills:**

Understanding the group skills needed to be an effective leader.

**Suggested Level:**

Advanced

**Time:**

30 minutes

**Supplies needed:**

- Pieces of paper or cards to write various scenarios
- Markers
- Tape

**Do Ahead:**

N/A

**Source:**

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**BACKGROUND:**

Introduce the group to the idea that there are individual skills (things I do well on my own or by myself) and group skills (things I do well in collaboration with others). Brainstorm a bit as to some group skills and how these affect our ability to interact with others. Discuss some of the ways we learn group skills in life – like being part of a classroom or a team. What do these experiences teach us about being part of a group?

Next ask participants to share some of their own group situations, like being in a band or hosting a fundraising event for their organization. Write the scenarios out briefly on separate sheets of paper, and tape up the sheets at locations around the room.

**WHAT TO DO:**

Break into teams of 3-5 people for the exercise, or conduct as one large group if numbers are small. Have the groups move to a scenario posted around the room. Give each group 10-15 minutes to review their scenario, determine who will play which role and plan their presentation. Each group then gets 3-5 minutes to present their scenario to the whole group. If time permits, have groups change the situation constraints – instead of a particular character not having group skills, allow the teams to act out the parts with all characters showing strong collaboration, cooperation, and respect for others.

**TALK IT OVER:****Reflect:**

- How did your group determine who would play what role and how your skit would be done? Did this require group skills?
- How did the group's skills, or lack of such skills, for a given character affect the situation?
- If you redid the skit with everyone having strong group skills, what behaviors did you change?

**Apply:**

- What kinds of skills did you identify as being important to working with a group?
- How do we improve our group skills? In what life situations?
- Next time you are thinking about leaders, how would this exercise change your perceptions?

**Notes:**

**BEYOND THE BOX:**

***Optional Homework:***

Provide a recent news article and ask the students to analyze whether the leader illustrated strong group skills. If not, how could the outcome of the situation have been altered if the leader did use good group skills? Ask the students to consider how poor group skills have affected other situations they've observed in their lives.

***Resources and Web Links:***