



Working with Others: Collaboration

Part of becoming an effective leader is learning to work well with others. In your life, you will have to work with many different people, whether it's teammates during a sports game or co-workers at your job. Collaborating is a skill that takes practice! Today, we are going to work with others to accomplish a certain task and learn how strengths and weaknesses can work together.

CONVERSATION STARTERS:

- When in your life would you need to rely on others?
- What are your strengths and weaknesses?
- What does collaboration look like?

Collaboration simply means working with others to accomplish a common goal. When you bring in others, you bring in other perspectives, ideas, and strengths. The effort that you are putting in is multiplied by the efforts of everyone working together. Although it is not always easy working with other people, it is worth the effort!

EXPLORATION ACTIVITY:

Save the City! In this activity, you will use each other's strengths to save the town from danger. There's no time to lose!

FACILITATOR TIP:

- pick a relevant bad guy for the scenario (Godzilla, natural disasters, dinosaurs...)
- Use activity questions to help move along the conversation
- allow kids creative freedom to be silly

KEY OBJECTIVES:

- Understand strengths and weaknesses
- How to use both to solve problems
- Understand why collaboration is important

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- Character Sheets appendix i.
- White Board
- Optional Worksheet appendix ii.

- 1- **Find your Partner:** Draw character cards, do not show anyone your card. Move around the room acting like your character until you find your match. *Use Appendix I for character cards.
- 2- **Strengths and Weaknesses:** As a partnership, decide what your strengths and weaknesses are. (ex. zombies - strength: very focused, not easily distracted. Weakness: slow runner *use optional worksheet appendix ii)
- 3- **Collaboration:** Each partnership will share their strengths and weaknesses with the group
- 4 - **Save the Town!** Our city is under attack! We must work together to save the town!
- 6 - **Action Plan:** Create a plan to save the town. Every group must have a defined role and responsibility utilizing their strengths. *use a whiteboard to complete the action plan

ACTIVITY QUESTIONS:

Ask some of these questions during the activity to help urge participants toward collaboration, utilizing strengths and filling in gaps from weaknesses?

- What do we know about the bad guy? Are there any weaknesses or strengths we need to be aware of?
- Should we focus on protecting the city or defeating the problem?
- Should we stick together or should we divide and conquer?
- What is our first priority?
- Remember what everyone's strengths are, how can those be helpful?



APPLICATION DISCUSSION:

Ask these questions after the activity to help make connections to the importance of working with others?

- Why is a "common goal", (the bad guy) essential for collaboration?
- When might you need to rely on others' strengths?
- Everyone has something to offer. What makes you unique? What can you offer to others?
- Was it easy to work with others? What barriers did you face? What barriers might make it hard in the real world?
- What makes a "good" leader?



CONCLUSION:

Congratulations! You successfully saved the town! Good job working together with others to address a common goal. Not one group had all the skills necessary to be able to save the town alone, but together you did it! This is why collaboration is so important! When we work with others, we get the benefits of their skills and their knowledge combined with the skills and knowledge you have. You can become a better leader as you understand the value of others and seek to include others in your work.

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REFERENCES

- Vitasek, K. (2025, September 4). Why collaboration is the fuel behind innovative growth. Forbes. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/katevitasek/2025/09/04/why-collaboration-is-the-fuel-behind-innovative-growth/>

APPENDIX I:

Print and cut out this list of characters. Fold them up and put them in bowl so each participant can draw one. Feel free to customize and add your own! This activity would also work in groups rather than pairs, just print off additional character cards depending on how big of a group you want/have.

Viking	Viking
Pirate	Pirate
Princess	Princess
Pizza Baker	Pizza Baker
Butler	Butler
Villian	Villian
Super Hero	Super Hero
Robot	Robot
Cowboy	Cowboy
Surfer Dude	Surfer Dude

Save the Town!

We need you to help us save the town! Below, list the strengths and weaknesses of your character.



Partnership Of -

Strengths -

Weaknesses -

ex. A partnership of zombies

Strengths - very focused on their goal, are not easily distracted

Weaknesses - very slow, not very smart, always hungry