

TEAM BUILDING IN AN EGG SHELL

A. The Great Egg Drop: The group will start off by doing this activity as an ice-breaker and discussion starter.

1. Students will be randomly broken up into even groups ranging from 4 to 6 (depending on the total size of the group).
2. They will be given 5 minutes to discuss as a group and decide on a way to protect a raw egg when being dropped with only 15 straws, 3 index cards, and 3 feet of masking tape.
3. After the 5 minutes is over, the supplies will be distributed to each group.
4. They will then have 5 minutes to build their "egg protector" without talking.
5. After the 5 minutes is over, one member from each group will drop their egg from a fixed height.
6. They will repeat step 5, raising the height each time, until only one group's egg survives.

B. Discussion: I will use the following questions to start a discussion on team building and how they can improve teamwork among the members of their own student councils.

- \$ What did you experience while doing this activity?
- \$ What were some problems that your group had while doing this activity?
- \$ How did you group overcome these problems?

C. Do We Have As Much Sense As a Goose?: This hand out describes leadership and teamwork through geese flying in a V-formation. It states the following 5 truths:

1. People who share a common direction and a sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier because they are traveling on the thrust of one another.
2. It is easier if we stay in formation with those who are headed the same way we are going.
3. It pays to take turns doing hard jobs, leadership can be shared - with people or with geese flying north.
4. We need to be careful what we say when we honk from behind - make it positive and encouraging!
5. If we have the sense of a goose, we will stand by each other!!

They will look over that handout and use it further the discussion.

- \$ What kind of roles did people take?
 - \$ Did a leader emerge in your group?
 - \$ If so, why was it that person?
- \$ Did your group have any trouble working together?
 - \$ Did everyone participate and do equal shares of the work?
 - \$ What kind of constructive and destructive criticism was given?

D. Conclusion: This final discussion question will tie everything together.

\$ How might you apply what you learned today about problem solving, teamwork, and leadership to you own student council?