Team Building

Generally speaking, a team is a group of people working towards a common goal. Team building is a process that develops cooperation and synergy within the team. To be an effective team, members must share a common goal, be respectful of one another, understand the importance of interdependence, and be motivated to help one another reach a defined goal.

For many students, working collaboratively as a team can be a new experience. Your students may need exposure, practice, and direct instruction on how to work effectively together. Refer to the following team building tips and warm ups, as needed.

Team Building Tips

- Ensure that students clearly understand the goals and expectations of the project before they get started.

- Help students establish their own role and identity within their team. Effective teams understand the importance of every team member.

- Check in with teams regularly and provide feedback on project tasks and deliverables. Create opportunities for them to receive feedback from their mentor and peers, as well.

- Incorporate opportunities for reflection throughout the project. Have students write in their Learning Logs on how the group is progressing and have them reflect on their own contributions and experiences.

Team Building Warm-up Activities

Team dynamics are directly related to a team's performance. Team building activities are a great way to focus team members and help them work effectively together. Use the following team building warm-ups, as needed. (futurecity.org/resources)

1. Generating Ideas Warm-Up

2. Communication and Decision Making Warm-Up (Survival on the Moon)

3. Conflict Resolution Warm-Up