

## 23. Problem Solving on a Team

**JUST THE FACTS:** Working together to solve problems is not always easy. The purpose of this activity is to have participants explore how effective teams might address problems that occur among its members.



### Time

30 minutes



### Materials

- Activity 23



### Directions

There are times when getting a team of people to work together successfully on a job or at school can be a challenge. Occasionally one person might display a bad attitude (for one reason or another) and cause the team to be less than productive. Activity 23 presents 10 different situations where the action of one team member is interfering with the team's success.

Divide a large group into smaller groups. Have participants act out or create a skit for each situation - providing both positive and negative alternatives for working through and solving each problem. Participants should take turns being the "difficult" team member. Participants can compare skits and responses and, ultimately, decide (as a larger group) on the best way(s) to handle each situation.



### Conclusion

Should each person on the team be "dealt" with in the same way? Are there ever any exceptions? Explain.



### Journaling Activity

Think about a time when you were on a team and one member of the team wasn't contributing. How was the situation handled? What might you have done differently? If you are a team leader, what can you do to help all team members contribute?



### Extension Activity

Using the problems listed in Activity 23, invite employers in to talk about how these situations are handled at their place of employment.

## Activity 23. Problem Solving on a Team

It's hard work to keep a team working well together. What would you say to or do about a team member in the following situations?

1. Is always late.

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2. Whispers to others or starts side conversations during discussions.

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3. Gets upset when his/her recommendations are not followed.

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4. Hogs the conversation/discussion.

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5. Leaves before the job/work is done.

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6. Constantly tells jokes and gets people off track.

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7. Refuses to work with another "certain" team member.

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8. Won't share in the leadership role.

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9. Falls asleep.

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10. Just sits there.

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## **Reflection Journal Activity**

1. Describe a time when you were on a team and one member was not contributing.
2. How was the situation handled?
3. What might you have done differently?
4. If you are a team leader, what can you do to encourage all team members to contribute?