



# HUMAN FACTORS & ERGONOMICS



STUDENT LESSON  
PLANS

University of Rhode Island



# TEAMS



University of Rhode Island

# TEAMS

## PURPOSE

To form a deeper understanding of team work and how to communicate effectively using verbal and nonverbal cues. This interactive activity helps students understand how team work impacts the productivity, performance, and efficiency within a group.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

When thinking about human factors, understanding team work is an important area to consider as it is an important tool for students to have. Understanding how teams function and the role that each team member plays in working towards the end goal is helpful when working in a team.

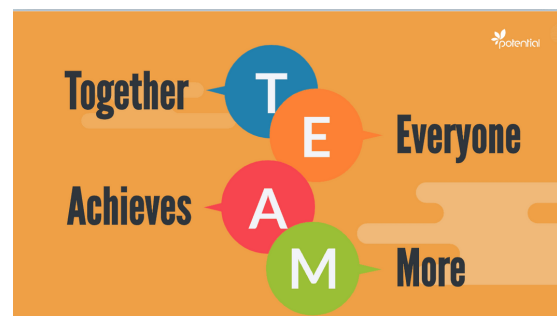
The team dynamic can make a group stronger and strive for success, or it can be diminishing and negatively impact the group's final product. Ensuring that the team dynamic is a positive environment where ideas are valued and shared can help produce a better end product., In addition, assigning roles within the group can help each team member understand what their contribution will be to ensure everyone is working towards the goal.

## APPLICATION TO HF&E

Imagine you have just joined a volunteer group that performs local neighborhood cleanups. The group doesn't have meetings, and the cleanup dates aren't shared with everyone. Is it possible to work together as a team without proper communication? How will this poor team work affect the group's ability to perform? Understanding the dynamics and roles of a team can help students remain aware of these traits when in teams of their own, which have a wide range of applications whether they are working on a school project or volunteering in their local communities.



<https://www.ringcentral.com/us/en/blog/effective-teamwork/>



<https://www.potential.com/articles/teamwork/>



# LESSON PLAN GRADES 7 - 9



University of Rhode Island

# TEAMS

## TEACHER MATERIALS



### YOUTUBE LINK

*"Team work pays off"*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wuo13FrNX6g>

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Group dynamics can determine the performance of the group, as well as the final product of the group's combined contributions.
- Teams need to be in sync and communicate effectively in order to be successful.
- A successful team shares a common goal and mission.
- Every team member puts equal effort into the project to reach the end goal.

### REFLECTION

1. After watching the video, what are some of the good teamwork qualities that were demonstrated? Why do you think they are good?
2. After completing the verbal communication activity, how do you think the different group sizes affected the success of the team? Why?
3. After completing the nonverbal communication activity, how difficult was it to communicate without speaking? What were some of the ways that students tried to communicate to each other?

# TEAMS

## TEACHER MATERIALS

### LENGTH OF COMPLETION

60 minutes

### BILL OF MATERIALS

4 bundles of 50 foot rope (\$2.88 each at Walmart)

Training cones (\$11.88 for 10 at Walmart) - optional, can use desks/chairs as obstacles instead

Deck of playing cards (\$2.97 at Walmart)

### PROCEDURE

#### Verbal communication:

1. Show students the video from the previous page of the introduction to teams.
2. Have a short discussion with the students about the various aspects of teamwork shown in the videos. Some discussion points could be:
  - a. Shared goals of the team
  - b. Effective communication
  - c. Equal effort of all team members
3. Divide the class into two teams. If possible, try to pair students that may not know each other as well.
4. Have each group stand in a huddle together and tie the rope around the entire group. Do this for each group.
5. Set up the training cones / obstacles evenly spaced out from the start to the finish for each group.
6. Race! Instruct the groups to move from the start to the finish, while weaving around each of the obstacles.
7. Repeat! Divide each of the two groups in half. There should now be four groups.
8. Repeat steps 3-5 again using the new group combination.
9. Repeat this exercise as many times as desired, using different group configurations and increased obstacle challenges to facilitate teamwork.

#### Nonverbal communication:

1. Shuffle the deck of cards thoroughly and walk around the room to give each student a card.
2. Instruct the students to keep their card a secret. No one can see the type or color of another's card.
3. Instruct the students to remain silent for the entirety of the activity.
4. Instruct students to assemble into 4 groups according to suits (hearts, clubs, diamonds, spades) using nonverbal communication.
5. Once students get into their groups, they must line up in order of rank, from ace to king.
6. The group that lines up in correct order first wins!

# TEAMS

## STUDENT HANDOUT

### LENGTH OF COMPLETION

60 minutes

### BILL OF MATERIALS

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Training cones / obstacles  
Deck of cards



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# LESSON PLAN GRADES 10 - 12



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### REFLECTION

1. Identify the qualities of a good team demonstrated in the video. Explain why these are good qualities to have in a team.
2. After completing the verbal communication activity, what could have been improved when working as a team? Was there any communication you would want to stay the same?
3. After completing the nonverbal communication activity, how did your team perform? How could your team have performed better?
4. What aspects of team performance from the discussion were used in the verbal communication activity? The nonverbal communication activity?

# TEAMS

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