
4-H CAREER EDUCATION ACTIVITY

Action Verb Circle

About This Activity

Age:

14 to 19

Objective:

The participants will learn the importance of action verbs in resumes.

Learning and Life Skills:

- Working and socializing with others.
- Participating and sharing
- Creative thinking

Michigan Curriculum Framework:

The following Michigan benchmark is addressed in this curriculum. More information can be found at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/MichiganCurriculumFramework_8172_7.pdf

- Thinks analytically and creatively about important themes, concepts and ideas

What You Will Need

Materials:

- Small ball or bag (preferably on the softer side) to toss
- Action Verbs handout
- Newsprint, markers and tape

Time:

15 minutes or more, depending on the size of the group

Setting:

An area where a circle can be formed with the entire group participating. A larger group will be better than a smaller group but it can be done with both.

Procedure

Before the Meeting:

Distribute the action verb handout.

During the Meeting:

Explain to the group what an action verb is and give examples of action verbs you would use in a resume. Have the group of participants stand in a circle. One person will start off with the ball and say an action verb that would be good to use in a resume. Give them an allotted amount of time to come up with something until they must throw the ball to the next person. The next person must then catch the ball, say an action verb and throw to someone else and so on.

Try This, Too:

Have one person sit in the middle of the circle (making the middle where you don't want to be). While the person is there tell him or her to count how many times the ball gets caught with the goal being to see who can get to the highest number. To change the person in the middle you can either have the person who didn't catch the ball be the person in the middle or a person who couldn't think of an action verb.

To make it harder, put a very short time limit of 5 seconds to think of an action verb before passing it on to someone else.

Work through the alphabet from A to Z, recognizing that there may not be an action verb for some letters like X or Z. If it's a large group and you run out of letters, simply start over with A.

Break into small groups. Give each group a piece of newsprint and a marker and have them list a skill and then list action words that work well to describe the skill. Have a reporter from each group share the results with the entire group. Use tape to hang the newsprint on the wall.

Talking It Over:

- What did you like or dislike about this activity?
- What new information did you gain from this activity?
- How will this activity help you in building your resume?
- What did you learn about yourself from this activity?

For More Information

To explore other Michigan 4-H Youth Development career development information, visit <http://4h.msue.msu.edu>. Click on the “Programs” tab then select “Careers.”