

Productivity and Academic Performance

Team Building Activities

Coffee Shop

This team building activity uses the concept of working at a coffee shop to help each team member to think quickly and act. Prepare around 20 different coffee combinations including size, drink type and modifier such as "decaf-tall-nonfat-vanilla-cappuccino." Assign each person to be a different aspect of the drink. For example, one person represents the size of the cup, another person is responsible for the flavor of the coffee and the other is the modifier. Give each person index cards with all of the possible names for their category such as "short, tall, grande and venti" for cup sizes. You call out a drink combination and the objective of the team is to organize themselves in that order by only hearing it one time. Time each round and then move on to another drink combination. This activity will demonstrate the need for organization and listening skills to increase productivity.

Puzzle Pieces

Find a puzzle with a modest number of pieces that the students can put together as a team. Time the team the first time (it should take some time) and then have them to put the puzzle together again. Compare the first amount of time to the second and then have the team put the puzzle together a third time and so on. You can do this as many times as you would like. At the end, compare the team's first time with their last--it will be significantly different. Point out how the team naturally organizes itself and how productivity increases as each member knows her purpose. Also, talk about how the more you do something, the more productive you are at it.

Source: http://www.ehow.com/list_6559221_team-building-activities-increase-productivity.html

Soft Skills @ Work

