

Building Dynamic Groups

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Abstract

How is communication working within your organization? Developing positive dynamic action in community organizations help move those organizations forward at a faster rate. An exciting tool, Building Dynamic Groups is designed for use with staff, committees, boards, collaborations, partnerships, coalitions, ad hoc groups, task forces, the possibilities are endless. Building Dynamic Groups builds relationships, helps groups become dynamic and function at their best.

Participants in this workshop will participate in interactive activities in the areas of communication, facilitation, visioning, teambuilding, and collaboration that can be completed in 30 minutes by a group or team. These simple activities can be completed at the onset of team meetings to encourage positive

energy and interaction among team members. These activities are structured to build a team in business or community settings. A facilitator of the activities may be able to identify emerging leaders as the participants are doing these interactive activities.

Building Dynamic Groups is a leadership education tool used in Northwestern Ohio. This project was created as a way for OSU Extension to meet the needs of audiences such as United Way, and Family and Children First Councils to build better collaborations and teams. Building Dynamic Groups encourages leaders to undertake the development of their groups, encouraging collaboration and better communication among group members.

Format

Building Dynamic Groups is divided into nine sections, which include introduction, assessments, icebreakers, communication, facilitation, collaboration, team building, visioning, and evaluation. Each topical area in the kit has a variety of activities that can easily be used with a group that is just forming or one that already exists. The kit contains all of the materials you need for each activity. Procedures and guidelines, along with occasional variations are given for each activity. Activities are designed so that activities can be used individually, or several can be used as a series to focus on building your group.

This project is a compilation of simple experiential activities that can be completed by a group or team in thirty minutes. Building Dynamic Groups uses many familiar activities, but the uniqueness of this project is that all the activities and materials that facilitators need are in one kit. It is designed to help community leaders in the development of their group to enhance meeting effectiveness and group outcomes.

Introduction, Assessment and Evaluation

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- 1. Introduction
- 2. Assessment
 - A Way out of the Activity Trap
 - Collaboration Progress
 - The Spider Web
- 3. Evaluation for both the facilitator and the participant

Ice Breakers

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- 1. Are You More Like...
- 2. Are You Really Looking at Me?
- 3. Data Processing
- 4. Feeling Hands
- 5. Front Lean
- 6. Giants, Wizards and Elves

7. Imaginary Ball Toss
8. Incorporations
9. Knee to Knee
10. Let's Talk
11. Levitation
12. Partner Interview
13. The Number Game
14. The One-Minute Praise
15. Weather Forecast
16. What's in (on) a Penny?
17. Who Are You?

Facilitation

1. Brainstorming Process
2. Case Studies
3. Fishbowl Activity
4. Games Trainers Play - The Book
5. Multi Voting
6. Nominal Group Technique
7. Open Space Technology
8. Paired Comparisons
9. Story Boarding
10. Town Meeting

Visioning

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1. Appreciative Inquiry
 2. Community Vision
 3. Lincoln Log Activity
 4. The Black Spot
 5. Values and Visioning Exercise

Collaboration

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1. All Over the Map
 2. Coat of Arms
 3. Diversity Cards
 4. Group Sit
 5. Human Knot
 6. Magic Carpet Ride
 7. Swamp Island Maze

8. Values Name Tag

Communication

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- 1. Back to Back
- 2. Broken Squares
- 3. Bull Ring
- 4. Dolphins and Killer Whales
- 5. Do Your Best
- 6. Drawing Bugs
- 7. Giants, Wizards and Elves
- 8. One Up, One Down
- 9. Telephone
- 10. Towers
- 11. Words Alone

Team Building

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- 1. Animal Descriptions
- 2. Candy Corn Craze
- 3. Habits and Expectations
- 4. Marble Pass
- 5. Sequenced Ball Toss
- 6. Sherlock Exercise
- 7. Stump Jumping
- 8. Towers
- 9. Win As Much As You Can

Summary

Building Dynamic Groups takes on the challenge of helping groups strive for excellence as they function in a dynamic, viable, cutting-edge manner. This project was funded with team development funds provided through the Community Development Group of Ohio State University Extension. Have fun as you take on the challenge of..."Building Dynamic Groups!"