

Pair Event: Communicating to Success

EVENT OBJECTIVES

Pairs will understand and reflect on their own communication practices
Pairs will understand and practice healthy communication techniques

PURPOSE & CONTEXT

This is the second meeting event for pairs. Pairs are still learning about each other but are also starting to define who they are as a pair.

This event continues the relationship development by focusing on effective and ineffective ways to communicate. So much of the relationship building is not the content of what you say but how you say it. This event has pairs reflect and practice healthy forms of communication to aid in their pair relationship building.

EVENT PREP

Set up a check-in table with event packets, pens/pencils, name badges, seating assignments and check in documents.

Post a few copies of the seating assignments on the walls. Make sure to use a large font!

MATERIALS:

[Communicating to Success Event Packet](#)

Tower Building Materials: Recommended to use note cards, popsicle sticks, or playing cards for each table

AGENDA (90 min event)

10 min	Welcome
30 min	Chat and Chew: <i>Miscommunication</i>
30 min	<i>Tower building</i>
10 min	<i>Tower building debrief</i>
10 min	<i>Close Out</i>

ACTIVITY:	PM NOTES:
Welcome and Intro (10 min)	<p>ENGAGEMENT: The PM will welcome pairs and review the event agenda.</p> <p>TALKING POINTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome, everyone! • Go over agenda: Tonight, we have a fun event in store for you. As you can see on your agendas, while we eat, we will have a conversation about miscommunication and how communication can go wrong. • After we finish eating, we'll do a group activity—You will have to use your communication skills in order to build to the sky. • Then, we will come back together in pairs to debrief the experience and close out the event. <p><i>Let pairs know what time they will be dismissed from the event. Share any housekeeping logistics (where the restrooms are, how to get your attention during the event if they need it, (re)introduce other school and event staff in the room, etc). If the event is virtual, review how to access break out rooms.</i></p>
Chat and Chew: Miscommunications (30 min)	<p>TALKING POINTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Throughout this program, you will work on best practices towards becoming a successful pair. • One of the most important aspects of becoming a successful pair is having clear communication. We all know that it is not always what you say but how you say it. • On your event handouts, you will see descriptions of bad communication habits. These are the ones that seem to come up often and have negative impacts. • Under the descriptions, there are reflection questions for you to discuss together. Please as you eat and catch up, read, reflect, and discuss these bad habits. This will allow you as a pair to share and point out those habits together. <p><i>PM NOTE: You should be circulating the room and checking in with pairs, listening for interesting comments and prompting reluctant participants.</i></p> <p>DEBRIEF (last 5 min of activity) <i>Bring the cohort back together</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is one bad communication habit you have been guilty of, yourself? • What is one step you will take to improve upon your communication?

Tower Building
(40 min)

TALKING POINTS:

- You're now going to work together as a table to test your communication skills and achieve a common goal.
- Using only the materials provided, work together to build the tallest structure possible.
- For the first round, you'll have ten minutes to build. Then you can walk around and check out the progress other tables have made. You can even ask other participants for suggestions.
- Back at your table, you will then consult with one another and figure out whether you want to try a new or different approach.
- You will have another 10 minutes to make a second attempt at building the tallest tower.

PM Notes: Launch work time and circulate the room to check in with pairs. Ask them to share their strategy with you. 10 minutes in, prompt pairs to stop their work and check out the progress at other tables. Then, give them 10 final minutes to make a second attempt.

TALKING POINTS:

- Our winners of this challenge are: _____
- They have demonstrated amazing collaboration skills.
- Effective collaboration requires:
 - Clear Expectations: a clear understanding of each team member's role and responsibilities
 - Communication: regular, honest dialogue
 - Reliability: each team member fulfills their tasks and keeps their promises
 - Trust: team members feel comfortable sharing their feelings, feedback, and asking for help
 - Respect: team members are open to one another's ideas and perspectives
- Take 10 minutes to debrief the activity with your mentor and then we will debrief all together.

DEBRIEF:

- What was easy about the tower building activity?
- What did you find frustrating during the tower building activity?
- How did you deal with your frustration during this activity?
- List one specific thing your mentee/mentor did, when working together, that you appreciated.

Close Out
(10 Min)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Share the date of the next event.
- Remind pairs to continue their weekly communication.
- Express gratitude and appreciation for their dedication to the iMentor program.
- Share any school-specific context and updates.