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Leadership Training Institute
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Week 6 – Obstacles

Materials

Gender Styles Handout
Assumptions Handout and Answers

Energizer: Splat

Start Time	3:00
End Time	3:15
Group Size	Full Group
Activity Leaders	

Materials:

None

Setup:

Enough space to create a circle

Description:

Icebreaker – for introductions and familiarization with names; all participants stand in one circle facing inward; someone starts off by saying another participant’s name. The two people standing on either side of the named individual must turn towards each other and declare, “Splat!” while the middle person ducks. If the middle person is still standing, he loses. Or else, whoever says “Splat!” first is the victor. If it is pronounced a tie by the observers, the two must have a “Splat off,” in which both participants shout “Splat splat splat...” until one person runs out of breath. Victor announces next name.

Desired Outcome:

Achieve familiarity with names of all staff and students.

Discussion Questions:

None

Gender Discussion

Start Time	3:15
End Time	3:40
Group Size	2 Groups
Activity Leaders	

Materials:

Comparison of Leadership Styles Handout

Set-Up:

None

Description:

Split the students into two groups, male and female. Have each list traits they associate with the opposite gender and with their own. Then, divide the students into groups of two, one male and one female in each group. Give them the handout and tell them to divide the traits listed in the male / female / neutral groups. Come back into a full group and have the groups present what traits they identified for the opposite gender and their own. Then discuss some of the adjectives that the small groups considered to be associated with a certain gender.

Desired Outcome:

Students become more aware of stereotypical gender differences and how they relate to leadership styles. They should also recognize that the best leaders exhibit some characteristics associated with males and some with females.

Discussion Questions:

What adjectives do you feel strongly stereotyped as male / female?

Do you guys agree? Disagree?

What about in reality? Are all women or men really like that?

If people are really a combination of all of these traits, where do we get these stereotypes?

Stereotypes Discussion

Start Time	3:40
End Time	4:00
Group Size	Small groups
Activity Leader(s)	

Materials:

None

Set-Up:

None

Description:

Mentors will use the previous activity as a starting point to guide discussion about different types of stereotypes: Physical Stereotypes, Stereotypes against those with mental disabilities, Racial stereotypes, etc. Students can decide what a “stereotypical” leader is like and identify leaders who overcame their challenges. This may lead to a discussion about how leaders overcome challenges and what failures mean.

Desired Outcome:

Students should gain a better understanding of what stereotypes exist and ways that they can be overcome. This will lead to a greater empowerment in their own lives to overcome any barriers society places on them because of stereotypes that they feel in their own lives.

Discussion Questions:

What stereotypes have you seen leaders around you overcome?

Do you think stereotypes are always bad? When?

Are they always accurate?

Is there a certain stereotype that leaders fit into? What about at school? In the world?

How do you know a leader when you meet one?

Has anyone ever stereotyped you? How did that make you feel?

Have you ever stereotyped someone? Why?