



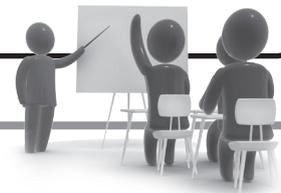
## ACTIVITY: 'BUFF AND POLISH'

**TIME:** 15+ minutes  
**SIZE:** Small groups  
**SPACE:** For small circles to work  
**RESOURCES:** Topic Cards Front & Back (pp.60–61 or SenseAbility CD), sticky tape, hat/bucket, pens, paper

**The aim** is for students to work at a given task, then employ helpful thinking skills when circumstances change rapidly. **The result** should be an appreciation of the importance of flexible thinking to maintaining a Sense of Control.

1. Break the class into small groups.
2. A member of each group selects a Topic Card\* (taped shut) from a bucket. They are **not** to open their cards yet. The outside text they are permitted to read will describe a fictional manufacturer and a product it makes (e.g. Communican: the world's toughest mobile phones).
3. Explain that groups are the marketing consultancy engaged to create a campaign for the product. Groups have 10 minutes to come up with an idea for a print campaign (e.g. a full-page newspaper advertisement) and a radio jingle.
4. Start the clock.
5. After five minutes, tell groups to stop work. Explain that there has been a disaster at their companies, which is explained inside their cards\*. Groups can now read inside their cards and see what has happened (e.g. a manufacturing error on the screen lens means the phone displays are so bright they are almost blinding, and can set fire to paper and cloth).
6. Groups must use their remaining five minutes to rethink their advertisement and jingle, 'repackaging' the product and turning the problem into a plus (e.g. Communican's mobile phone is perfect for bushwalkers who need to start campfires). Note: lies and shonky misrepresentation are not permissible!
7. When the activity finishes, have each group share its product, original plan, and new 'repackaged' advertising solution.

\*If you are unable to print double-sided sheets, simply present the fronts of the Topic Cards first, then at point 5 present the backs of the Topic Cards.



## DISCUSSION SUGGESTIONS

- How would you describe your Sense of Control when you commenced the activity? What were your thoughts and feelings? Capable? Confident?
- Did those thoughts and feelings change when you received the command to open the card and all your work had to go out the window? What happened to your Sense of Control? What bodily symptoms did you experience? What emotional responses did you have? What thoughts drove those? Did anyone want to give up?
- What thinking strategies did various groups use to rally and regroup? Did they involve problem-solving or goal setting (e.g. let's make a list of possible positives of this problem and then worry about the advertisement later)?
- Which strategies could you use in real life? How/why?
- Has anyone experienced a situation (or thoughts/feelings) like this in real life? What happened? What was the outcome? Would you do things differently if you could? Like what?
- Do you know of instances where a real company has experienced a setback similar to the ones in this activity? What was its response?
- Why is flexible thinking so important to a healthy Sense of Control?