



ACTIVITY: 'OUR CLUB'

TIME: 15 minutes a week for four weeks
SIZE: Groups of six to 10
SPACE: N/A
RESOURCES: Nil

The aim is for students to enjoy working together as a team.

The result should be an appreciation that everyone has strengths and weaknesses, and that groups are strengthened when individual talents are exercised to their best potential.

1. Break the class into groups of six to 10. It is a good idea if the members of these groups don't all know each other well.
2. Explain that these new groups are going to become social clubs. Have the groups come up with names for themselves.
3. Each group works out something unusual that its members all have in common (e.g. they all live west of the school, all like Vegemite, or all love Funniest Home Videos).
4. The groups have two things to do: 1) set a goal that involves every member; and 2) to meet once a week somewhere NOT in the current class for a minimum of 15 minutes. The goal could be to put on a function (e.g. a 'Spread the Veg Day' where the group hands out free Vegemite sandwiches).
5. Individuals are to keep a week-by-week diary to record how they feel about belonging to this group. Students should note: If they feel included and good, why? If they feel a bit left out, why? How could they reinforce or change those feelings?
6. At the end of the allocated time span (i.e. after all the groups' goals have been completed) conduct a class discussion.



DISCUSSION SUGGESTIONS

- What did you think about your group when it first formed? What do you think about it now? How have your feelings about the group changed (if at all) and why?
- How was the goal agreed and tasks allocated? Was there a leader? If so, how was he/she chosen? If not, how were decisions made?
- How were conflicts resolved?
- What made your group special?
- Did you feel that you were a valued part of your group? Where did those feelings come from?
- Was having a goal important to group cohesion? Why/why not?
- Will your group continue to meet even though the goal was met? Why/why not?
- How important was it to have something in common? Why might that be?
- What skills did you learn that you can apply in everyday life?