

TEAM LEADERSHIP PROBLEM

10. THE RING

Theme: Problem Solving

Estimated Time: 25-30 minutes

Resources Required: Paper strips cut 1" x 11", tape or stapler, pen or pencil, scissors

Activity Description and Step-by-Step Instructions:

Sometimes the easiest solution is the one that needs some thought. This exercise helps the students to see that their first solutions might not necessarily be the right ones.

Give every student a strip of paper and instruct them to write "CAP" a number of times on one side and "Cadet" a number of times on the other. Instruct the students that they will have five minutes to make a ring with their paper and that the largest ring made with a single strip wins. Students are allowed to connect the ring only once.

Start the activity. Stop at the end of five minutes. Most students will take the easiest route and create a simple ring:



State to the students that they need to be more creative if they want to get a bigger ring. Follow the same rules as before and allow the students to make another attempt. Start the activity. Stop at the end of five minutes. {Watch and praise "creative" solutions."}

You should create a Möbius Strip (attach the ends of the paper after creating a half-twist):



Show the students your ring after they have shown you theirs. Cut your paper down the middle of the entire ring and show the students the results. Your ring will be bigger.

Discussion Questions:

What did we just do?

What did you learn?

What were some leadership concepts learned from this exercise?

How can these leadership concepts be applied to outside this activity?