SkillsUSA Framework Fundamentals: Teaching Strategies for the Essential Elements

**PRICE:** $24.95

**DESCRIPTION:** Take the guesswork out of teaching students the definitions and behaviors of the 17 SkillsUSA Framework Essential Elements. This resource delivers exactly what the name implies. It’s the ideal way to quickly introduce the Essential Elements to your students and will lead to all students being able to articulate the definition, outcomes and behaviors of each Essential Element. This resource will also prompt questions to take students’ learning to a deeper level with personal application. The set consists of 17 durable cards measuring 6 inches by 10.25 inches and is ideal for daily classroom use. Each card includes the Essential Element definition, outcomes and behaviors, and guided questions for students to consider or discuss. An included teacher’s guide provides 20 classroom integration ideas.

**ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IDENTIFICATION:**

All 17 Essential Elements

**Student Learning Objectives:**

- Develop a common language to describe the Essential Elements.
- Apply Essential Element content in their personal lives.
- Articulate the need for Framework skills for employer and employee success.
WAYS TO INTEGRATE

IN-PERSON INTEGRATION EXAMPLE:

Activity: Card Pick

Additional materials needed: None

Time Frame: 3 minutes
(could be expanded to entire class period)

Directions: Shuffle the Essential Element cards. Have an individual student select one card from the deck without looking at the cards. After selecting a card, he or she can:

- Answer one of the reflection questions on the back of the card.
- Describe why this Essential Element is useful for their desired career area.
- Rate themselves on how well they currently demonstrate this Essential Element and/or how they might better demonstrate it in the future.

You could also have the student respond to the question, “Why do you think that Essential Element card chose you today?”

VIRTUAL INTEGRATION EXAMPLE:

Activity: Pair Questioning

Additional materials needed: None

Time Frame: 30 minutes
(could be expanded to entire class period)

Directions:

- Choose one Essential Element to explore.
- Connect with students using an online platform which allows breakout rooms.
- Using your card as a guide, share the Essential Element and its definition by posting it on a screen visible to all.
- Instruct students that they will have five minutes to discuss one of the questions selected from the card. Designate one member from each breakout group to share a summary of the small group’s thoughts with the large group.
- Using breakout rooms, divide students into virtual small groups of two to five. Provide each group with one question using your card as a guide (allow five minutes).
- Bring students back to the main meeting room and ask each group to share their responses. Facilitate a discussion.
- Using your card as a guide, identify outcomes and behaviors throughout the discussion as connection opportunities arise.
SkillsUSA has an impact on the lives of America’s future workforce through the development of personal, workplace and technical skills that are grounded in academics.
Communication

**DEFINITION**
Sending and receiving clear messages

**OUTCOME**
Accurate exchange of information and ideas

**BEHAVIORS**
- Write and speak effectively
- Use appropriate body language
- Check for understanding when articulating complex issues
- Practice active listening skills
- Choose appropriate mode of communication

**QUESTIONS**

1. What do others do that lets you know they are listening?

2. Give an example of the impact of body language on communication.

3. Think of a recent conversation you had. What clarifying questions would you have asked to strengthen your understanding?

4. In what professions are effective writing skills required?

5. What factors do you use to choose the most appropriate mode of communication?