SkillsUSA Framework Thumball

**PRICE:** $24.95

**DESCRIPTION:** Looking for a fun and engaging way to get your students physically involved in discovering the SkillsUSA Framework? Look no further; the SkillsUSA Framework thumball has arrived. Using the ball will help students better process and reflect on the Essential Elements. The thumball is 4 inches in diameter with 32 content panels. A Teacher’s Guide accompanies this item and offers 25 user-friendly thumball activities to aid teachers, SkillsUSA advisors and members in introducing and teaching the Essential Elements as well as building upon existing Framework knowledge. The activities promote student collaboration, discussion, evaluation and recollection of Framework skills and their significance.

**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 personal examples related to the demonstration of the Essential Elements in the classroom, chapter and workplace.

To purchase this educational resource, visit the SkillsUSA Store at [www.skillsusa.org/shop](http://www.skillsusa.org/shop).
IN-PERSON INTEGRATION EXAMPLE:

Activity: **Thumbball Relay**

This activity focuses on helping students identify where the Essential Elements belong in relation to the three Framework components: personal, workplace and technical skills.

**Additional materials needed:** multiple Thumballs, markers and large writing surface (white board or sheets mounted on wall)

**Time Frame:** 30 minutes

**Directions:** Divide the class or chapter into groups of five to 10 students. Each team will need a thumbball, marker and large writing surface in the front of the room. Team members line up, single file, facing the front of the class or meeting room. The student or member in the front of each row starts the relay when instructed to begin. Once the relay begins, each student at the front of his or her line tosses the thumbball to identify and announce an Essential Element. They will rush to the board or paper in the front of the room and write the component to which the skill belongs. The teacher or selected classmates determine if the student is correct. If the student is correct, he or she returns to their team to pass the marker and thumbball to the next teammate in line. If the student is not correct, then he or she must try again. Once the student is correct, that person passes the ball to the next team member. That member takes a turn completing the same steps. The first team to have all members complete the process correctly wins the relay. When completed, conduct a group discussion.

**Processing questions:**

- Why do you think SkillsUSA chose to use these three components?
- Which Essential Elements could fit into a different component? Explain your reasoning.
- How will you use these Essential Element behaviors in your future career?

VIRTUAL INTEGRATION EXAMPLE:

Activity: **Rate My Strengths**

**Additional materials needed:** Create virtual Thumbball using [https://wheelofnames.com/](https://wheelofnames.com/) and adding all 17 Essential Elements

**Time Frame:** 15 minutes (could be expanded to entire class period)

**Directions:** Select a student and spin the Essential Element wheel, in lieu of being able to toss the Thumbball. Ask the students to rate themselves on a scale of one to 10 (with 10 being the highest) on how strongly they feel they currently apply that Essential Element and how they might strengthen this skill. Ask processing questions as needed.

**Processing questions:**

- How will you strengthen this skill?
- How can involvement in SkillsUSA help you develop the Essential Elements?
- When is it hard to demonstrate this Essential Element?

Continue the process with other students as long as desired depending on time.