



TEAMWORK

Activities

“Turn Over a New Leaf” (20 minutes)

Supplies Needed

- Permanent markers
- Tarp, bed sheet or object of similar material. The tarp should be about 4 feet by 5 feet for a group of 12 students. For larger groups, calculate $1 \frac{2}{3}$ square feet for each student

Give these instructions:

1. Think of a time you failed to work cooperatively with others. Select one word to describe or summarize this experience.
2. Using a marker, write your word on the tarp.

After all students have written their word, have all students stand on the tarp. Give these instructions:

3. To be successful in school, in SkillsUSA, and in the workplace, we must work cooperatively with others. Teamwork is an essential skill to career success. Today we will turn over a new leaf and focus on how we can each work cooperatively with others.
4. As a group, without stepping off of the tarp, turn over the tarp completely to cover up our past negative experiences.
5. Everyone must maintain contact with the tarp at all times.

The difficulty of the activity can be increased by allowing students to touch the tarp with only their feet or using a time limit for the activity. After facilitating the activity, ask these questions:

- How did you succeed in turning over the tarp to cover up the negative past experiences?
- What roles did individuals play?
- Did everyone contribute equally?
- When was cooperation at its strongest within your team?
- When was cooperation lacking within your team?
- When must you work cooperatively with others in school? In SkillsUSA? In the workplace?
- Who is affected when you fail to work cooperatively with others?
- What can we do if others on our team do not work cooperatively?



If you and your students enjoyed this exercise, additional activities covering all Essential Elements are available in SkillsUSA Ignite.
<https://www.skillsusastore.net/ignite.html>