Class activity: Workplace skills

The team challenge

Years 9 to 11 | About 50 minutes | https://schools.careercalling.com.au/activities/team-challenge/

A practical build challenge that shows how teams plan, share roles and handle setbacks, then links it to real workplaces.

Learning intentions

- Work in a team with clear roles
- Plan before acting and adjust when things change
- Reflect on how teamwork looks in a workplace

You will need

- For each team: 20 sheets of paper, a roll of tape and scissors
- A timer
- Role cards (on the worksheet)

Lesson steps

Time	Step	What to do
5 min	**Brief**	Teams of four get the challenge: build the tallest free-standing tower that can hold a book. Each person takes a role: planner, builder, timekeeper, checker.
5 min	**Plan**	Teams plan without touching the materials.
15 min	**Build**	Teams build. Halfway through, announce a change (for example, one less roll of tape) so teams have to adjust.
10 min	**Test and celebrate**	Test each tower with a book. Celebrate the best plan and the best recovery, not only the tallest tower.
15 min	**Debrief**	Discuss: how did your team decide? What happened when the rules changed? Where would you need these skills in a job you are interested in?

Adapting it

Allow students to choose roles that suit them. For a smaller space, build bridges between two desks instead of towers.

Going further

Students write a short reflection using the situation, what I did, what happened pattern for their resume.

Student worksheet

The team challenge

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

My role and what it involved

Our plan

What changed and how we adjusted

One thing our team did well

One thing we would do differently

A job where this kind of teamwork matters

Student worksheet

Role cards (cut along the dashed lines)

Planner: leads the planning time and keeps the team to the plan, or changes it when the team agrees	**Builder: handles the materials and builds, and asks the team for help when needed**	**Timekeeper: calls out the time left and keeps the team moving**
Checker: tests each stage for strength and height, and spots problems early		