

Webinar:

New Strategies for Teaching In-Demand Soft Skills



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Attendees will review:

- Who is Realityworks, Inc.
- Who are today's students and what makes them unique?
- Practical strategies for teaching soft skills
- Realityworks' soft skills programs
- Free resources!
- Q&A

Who is Realityworks?

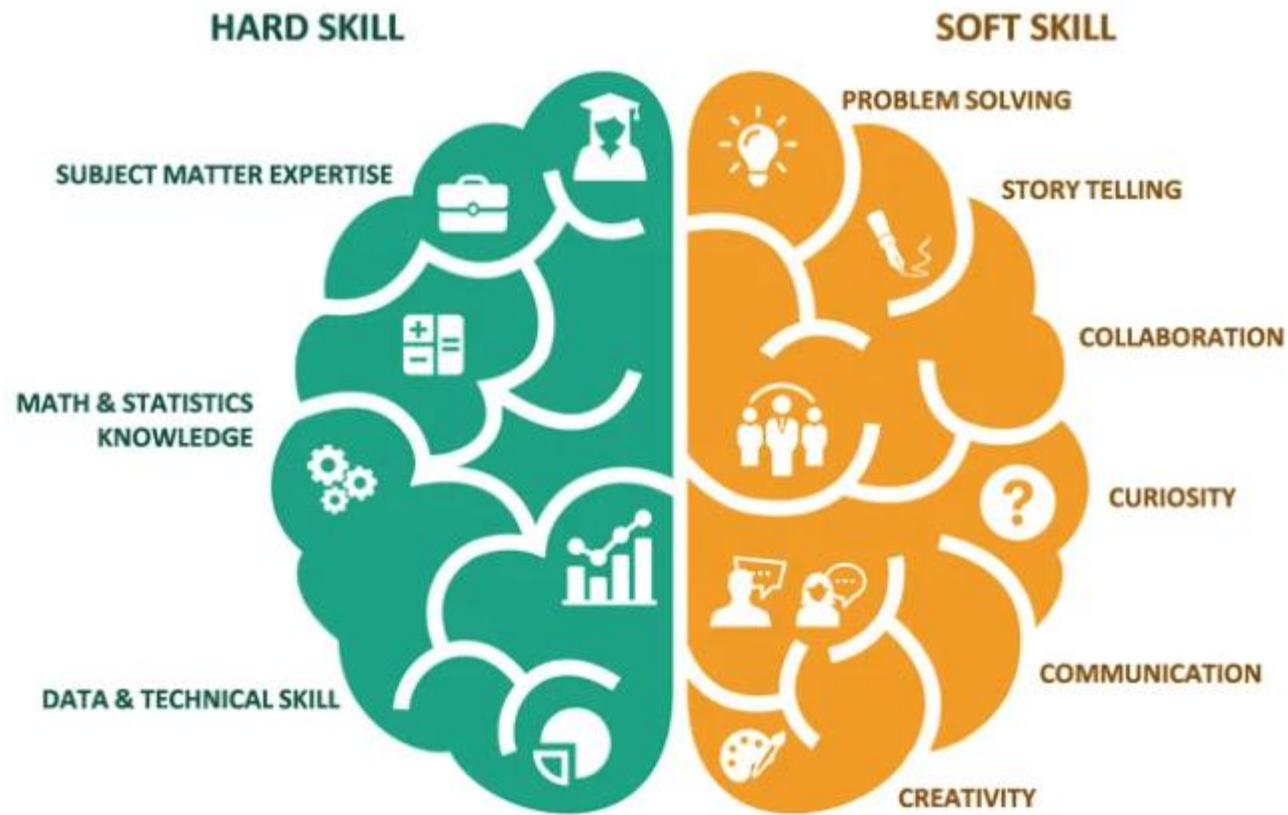


We partner with educators, administrators and industry leaders to ensure our offerings meet their needs and make lessons truly meaningful.

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The background image shows a trade show floor with various booths and people. A large orange overlay covers the entire image. In the background, a sign for 'Hall J' is visible. In the foreground, there are signs for 'FACS,' and 'Realityworks'. A person is visible in a booth on the right, and another person is visible in a booth on the left. The overall scene is a busy trade show environment.

What Are Soft Skills?



Source: [Do soft skills make us stronger leaders?](#)

“The incredible thing about soft skills is that they're not only transferable across industries and transcend roles, but they are also **high-income skills** – they are the gateway to high-paying career and business opportunities.”

Source: [3 Soft Skills To Learn In 2025 That Will Pay You Forever \(forbes.com\)](https://forbes.com)

Do soft skills matter? YES!



"Qualities such as trust, compassion, stability, and hope reliably boost both **employee engagement and performance**" - 2024 Gallup soft skills analysis



"72 percent of US executives agree that soft skills — communication, creativity, adaptability — are **even more valuable than AI** skills" - 2023 LinkedIn AI study



In a recent survey of UK CEOs, problem-solving was highlighted as the **most valuable skill** for 2024 among all soft skills.

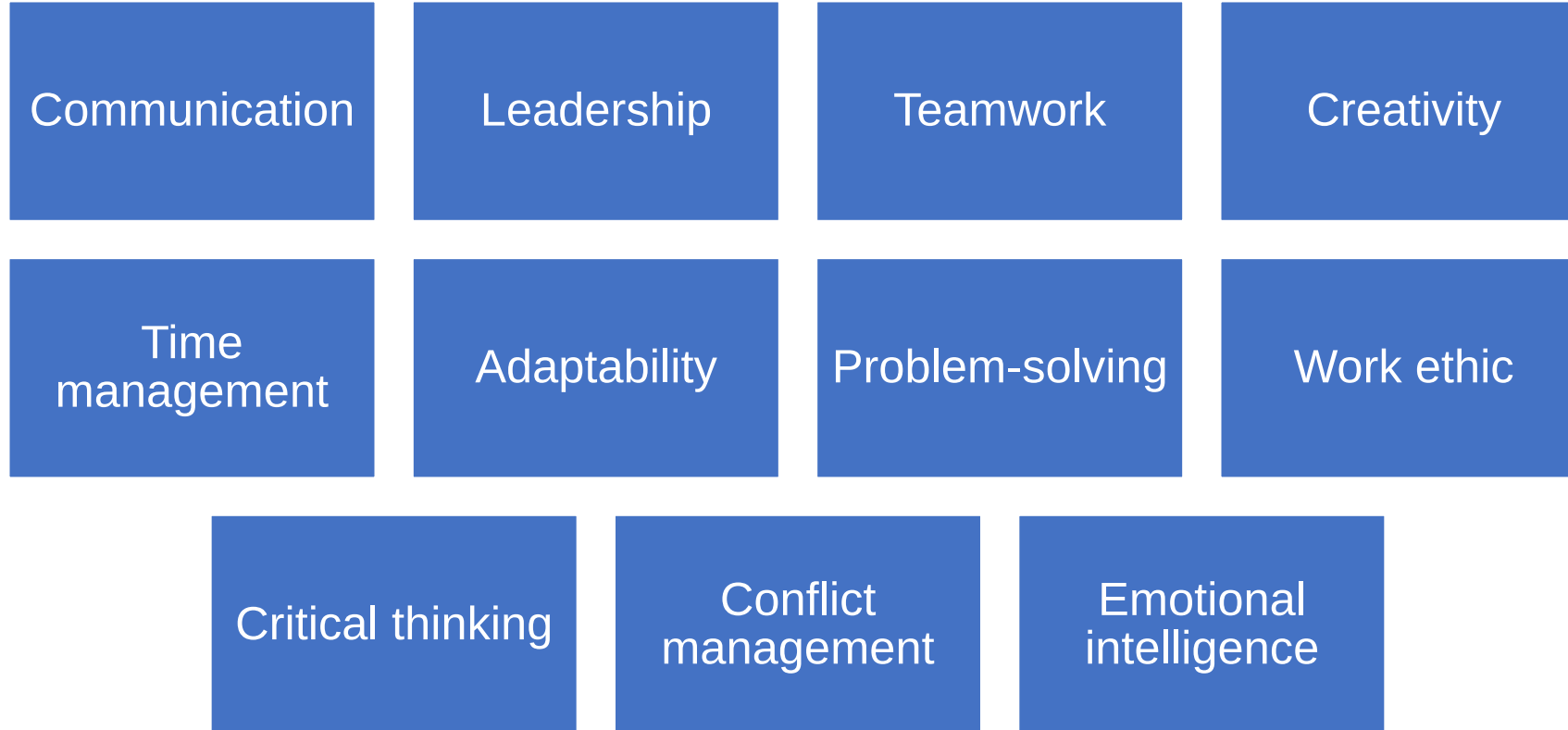


"By 2025, skills such as analytical thinking, innovation, and complex problem-solving will be in **high demand**." - 2023 jobs report by the World Economic Forum

Sources:

- <https://www.cn.edu/cps-blog/the-role-of-soft-skills-in-the-workplace-why-they-matter/>
- <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/workla/podcast/linkedin-vp-aneesh-raman-on-why-adaptability-is-the-skill-of-the-moment>
- <https://uk.themedialleader.com/problem-solving-is-most-valuable-skill-for-2024-say-uk-ceos/>
- <https://www.weforum.org/publications/the-future-of-jobs-report-2023/digest/>

11 Essential Soft Skills In 2025



Source: <https://www.forbes.com/advisor/business/soft-skills-examples>

The background image shows a trade show floor with various booths and people. A large orange overlay covers the entire image, and the text is centered in white. In the background, signs for 'Hall J', 'FACS', and 'Realityworks' are visible. People are seen interacting at booths, and there are various items like boxes and laptops on display.

Practical Methods for Teaching Soft Skills in Any Class

Encourage teamwork

Steps to integrate immediately:

1. Divide your class into small groups and assign each group a topic relevant to your current lesson.
2. Give each group a clear task, like researching their topic and presenting it to the class in a creative way
3. Allow time for group discussions, and emphasize the importance of teamwork in their final presentation.
4. After presentations, lead a class discussion on how they worked as teams



Start each day with a handshake



- Introduce it with excitement
- Focus on eye contact and a polite greeting
- Repetition is key
- **Check it out** – “The Amazing Shake Challenge:”
<https://www.theamazingshake.com/>

Cultivate empathy

“With every lesson concept, reminders on the importance of empathy should be built in. Personally, I also like to include exam questions on selecting the best empathetic response or professional behavior for the situation. We need to help our students build that human-to-human connection.”

- *Kasey Carlson, MSN, MEd, Nursing Curriculum Technology Manager, WI*

Free guide: Classroom Ideas to Help Students Develop Empathy Toward Older Adults

Get it here: <https://www.realityworks.com/geriatric-training-tools/>

Classroom Ideas to Help Learners Develop Empathy Toward Older Adults

A guide to engaging today's students in developing geriatric sensitivity



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Add relevancy with real-world examples



Help students see the value of soft skills in their current jobs!

Example:

- Students working at fast-food restaurants
- Real-world skill connections:
 - Teamwork: One person cooks the burger to the right temperature; another ensures it's prepared and served properly.
 - Communication: Coordination is key in food safety and customer service.

Ask students to reflect on how they use soft skills (like teamwork, communication, or problem-solving) in their part-time jobs

TIP: Incorporate scenario-based learning

- **Classic Scenarios:**
 - Job Interviews
 - Customer Complaints
 - Handling Disruptive Clients
 - Marketing New Products
- **New ideas:**
 - Incorporate Technology
 - Host Debates
 - Bring in Others!



Free guide: Using Scenario-Based Learning To Explore Careers

Get it here: <https://www.realityworks.com/sample-scenario-cards/>

Practice professionalism daily

- Suggested requirements:
 - Arrive on time
 - Come prepared
 - Use proper spelling and punctuation
 - Dress for success
- The key is consistency
- Set clear expectations
- Lead by example



Implement networking activities



- Time the interactions
- Use pre-planned questions or cue cards
- Debrief afterwards:
 - How much did you learn?
 - Did it feel like a conversation?
 - What made it easier or more difficult?

Make intentional assignment tweaks



- Adaptability – the new competitive advantage!
- Add a new requirement
- Shift a deadline
- Work with students to manage frustration



Make time for reflection

When?

- Before something important (or are expected to do something)
- During something important
- After something important



Tools for teaching soft skills in any class





Employability and leadership skills programs

- Available online or in print!
- Each program includes lessons specific to individual soft skills.
- Each lesson also gives students the chance to apply each of these skills 2-4 times per lesson
- **Learn more:**
<https://www.realityworks.com/product-category/career-and-technical-education/soft-skills/>

Online employability and leadership skills programs

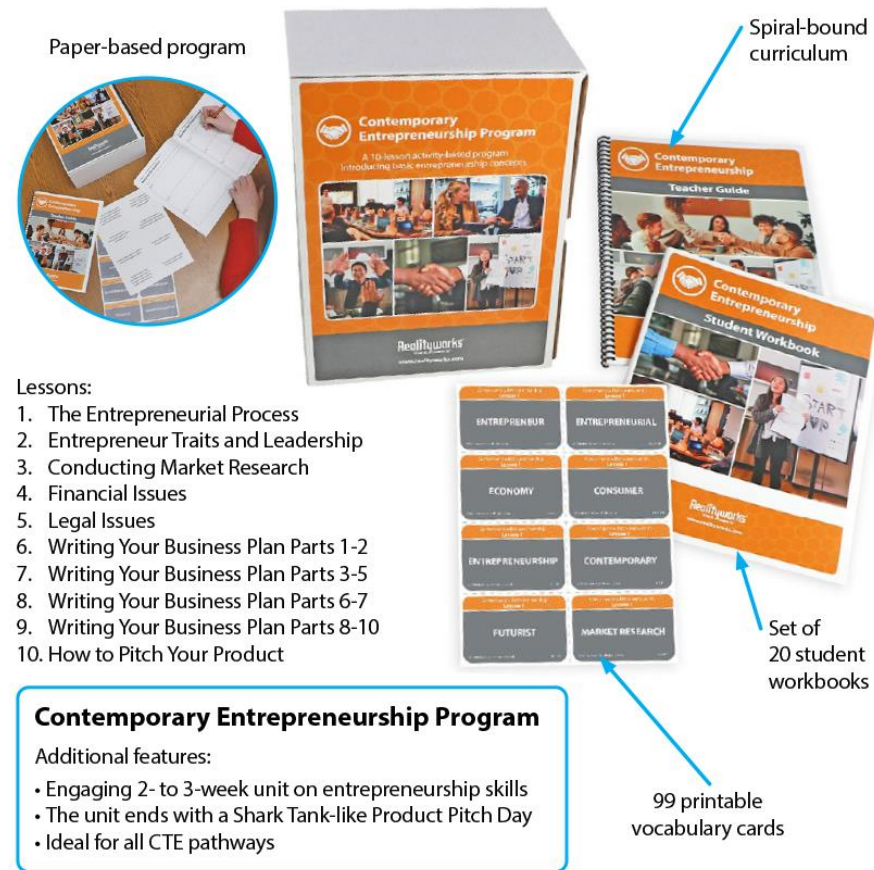
- Web-based options
- Designed for any classroom
- Real-world scenarios and activities
- Self-paced and interactive
- Variety of license lengths and terms
- Free trials available

Learn more:

<https://www.realityworks.com/soft-skills-implementation/>



Contemporary Entrepreneurship Program (online or paper-based)



Learn more: <https://www.realityworks.com/product/contemporary-entrepreneurship-program/>

NEW: Middle School Employability Skills Program

- Engaging, easy-to-implement program
- Integrates hands-on activities as well as real-world applications to teach students 20 soft skills
- Employability skills in the program were chosen by teachers as highly desired.
- Workbooks provide a wealth of activities to apply what they have learned
- Scenario cards build in the power of scenario-based learning for problem solving and critical thinking

Lessons:

1. Communication
2. Problem Solving
3. Interpersonal Skills
4. Responsibility
5. Teamwork
6. Work Ethic
7. Listening
8. Respect
9. Critical Thinking
10. Time Management
11. Professionalism
12. Decision-Making and Goal Setting
13. Honesty and Integrity
14. Team Building
15. Conflict Resolution
16. Creativity
17. Motivation
18. Flexibility
19. Self-Confidence
20. Stress Management

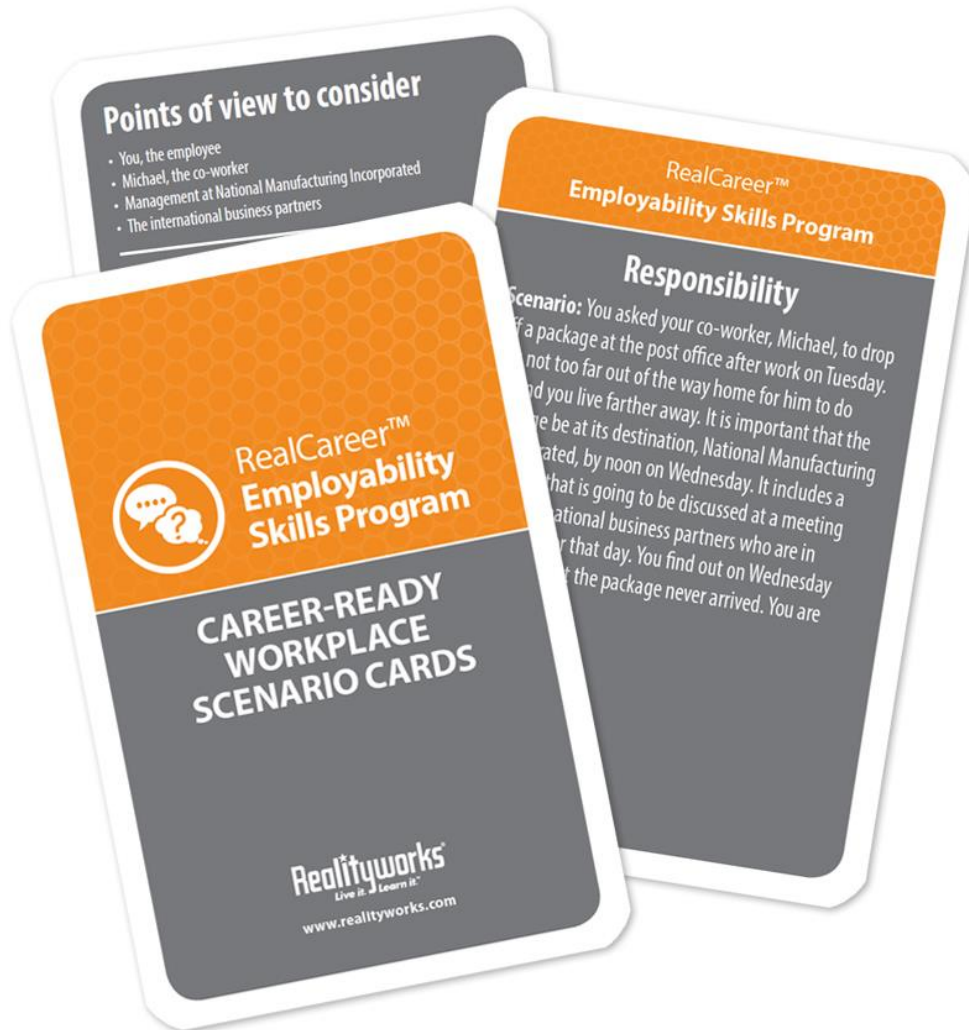


Middle School Employability Skills Program

Use this program to:

- Supplement existing employability skills
- Teach a complete unit on skills
- Generate real-life discussions
- Prompt reflection activities
- Generate ice-breaker activities

Soft skills activity cards



- Written by industry professionals
- Themed around specific careers
- Key questions included

Free samples:

<https://www.realityworks.com/sample-scenario-cards/>

More resources

- **Free infographics:**
<https://www.realityworks.com/resources/realityworks-interactive-posters/>
- **Free Guide: 5 Ideas for Incorporating Soft Skills Into any Classroom:** <https://www.realityworks.com/soft-skills-implementation/>
- **Free lessons:**
 - [12 Easy Entrepreneurship Activities For Any Class \(Plus 3 Free Lessons\) – Realityworks](#)
 - [3 Free Lessons to Help Students Develop Power Skills - Realityworks](#)

KEY SOFT SKILLS TO PRACTICE

Soft skill development helps individuals navigate the modern workplace. Soft skills improve the quality of everyday actions. Below are 8 key soft skills to practice.¹²

Responsibility⁸

Responsibility relates to having authority over something that is within your control. At the workplace, responsibility could entail being held accountable for completing any tasks assigned to you.

Flexibility¹³

Flexibility requires adapting to a changing environment. This involves handling feedback and adjusting to different situations as they arise.

Self-Confidence¹⁰

Confidence plays a huge role in performance. A confident employee is productive and able to contribute their best work. Confidence also means taking on projects that may lead to unfamiliar territory.

Interviews⁷

While recruiters are interested in your qualifications, they are also evaluating how well you will fit into the company. Exercising soft skills during interviews shows your ability to work professionally with others and contribute to the team.

Problem-Solving¹¹

This soft skill involves coming up with solutions to problems that may arise. To be successful in this area it is important to think "outside of the box" when it comes to complex problems.

Negotiation¹¹

Negotiation involves asserting influence and persuading others. This typically means finding solutions that benefit both parties.

Presentation Skills¹¹

Presentation skills involve presenting ideas clearly and persuasively. This uses other soft skills like communication, self-confidence, and stress management.

Networking⁹

Networking is the act of building connections with people who share common interests. Broadening your network opens you up to business opportunities, whether that is recruiting or being hired onto a job.

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Questions?

