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Experiential Learning Technology

Teaching Soft Skills: 15 Tips in 20 Minutes

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Webinar agenda

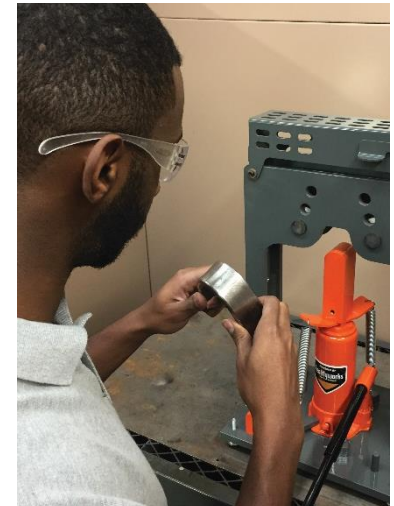
- Overview of Realityworks, Inc.
- What are soft skills?
- 15 ideas for incorporating soft skills into CTE courses
- Q&A

What is Realityworks?

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Innovative Learning Tools for Skills Training

FACS | Health Sciences | Agriculture | Welding and Trade Skills



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What are soft skills?

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What are soft skills?



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Why do soft skills matter?

“The future of work is inextricably linked to the future of learning. How we educate our youth translates into their preparedness as they enter the workforce. And how we retrain and upskill our existing workforce allows them to stay relevant in a changing work environment.”

Institute of the Future

Source: <https://knowledgecompass.com/post-covid-19-soft-skills-strategic-reemergence/>

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15 ways to teach soft skills in your CTE classroom

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Assign group projects to foster teamwork

“I encourage teamwork in my classroom by having my students work together in groups to present valuable information to their fellow classmates. Sometimes information is received differently when it comes from your peers. This helps me understand their ability to work as a team and see who can be a team player.”

- Ashley Edmonds, Family & Consumer Sciences Teacher, Jack Britt High School, NC



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#2

Begin each class with an elbow bump (or a virtual high-five)

- Do it daily
- Ensure the encounter includes eye contact and a polite greeting



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Cultivate empathy at every opportunity

“With every lesson concept, reminders on the importance of empathy should be built in. Use case studies and simulation to prepare them to handle uncomfortable topics. 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 download: “Empathy in Your Classroom” by The Teachers Guild -
<https://www.oakland.edu/Assets/Oakland/galileo/files-and-documents/Empathy%20in%20Your%20Classroom%20Teachers%20Guild.pdf>

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#4

Use real-world examples to make lessons relevant



“My high school students may have jobs at Pizza Hut, Raising Canes, McDonald’s, etc., but soft skills are still needed in those jobs. As I teach students about their future professions, we discuss how soft skills are used in their current jobs. For instance, teamwork and communication are needed to keep food safe as one person cooks burgers to the correct temperature and another prepares and serves it the proper way.”

- Jennifer Hebert, culinary teacher, Beau Chene High School, LA

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#3

Role play workplace scenarios



- **Classic scenarios:** Job interviews, dealing with customer complaints, handling disruptive clients, marketing new products
- **New ideas:** Incorporate technology, debate, bring in others

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#4

Practice professionalism on a daily basis



- Key is to be consistent
- Set clear expectations
- Lead by example

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#5

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?

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#6

Make intentional assignment tweaks



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Regularly assign collaborative work

- Encourages students to “teach” each other
- Encourages cooperation and communication
- **Learn more:** “Group Work in the College Classroom” - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5a7hP9doTBg>



Group Work in the College Classroom

#8

Remember to reflect



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

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#9

Informal and formal oral speaking opportunities

- **Formal:** Individual or group presentations to the class
- **Informal:** One-on-one requests for help, supplies or assistance



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#10

Use small talk conversation cards



- Use anytime
- Remember the 3 P's: Polite, positive, professional
- Implement regularly

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#11

Practice giving and receiving feedback

- Set expectations
- Use a feedback rubric
- Keep it anonymous
- Moderate and review feedback from students
- Start small



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#12

Use video diaries



- Promotes comfort with technology
- Practice makes perfect
- 5 apps:
<https://writingcooperative.com/five-apps-to-get-students-excited-about-journaling-7b86803d5669>

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#13

Coordinate mock interviews

- Reach out to representatives in related industries
- Show an example
- Encourage research
- Prepare detailed rubrics
- Option: Consider guest speakers



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#14

Use student planners



- Use at key transition times
- Ensure they are accessible
- Create routines

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#15

Consider the RealCareer™ Employability Skills Program



- Includes curriculum, student workbooks, activities and teaching materials
- Addresses 20 soft skills
- **Find it online:**

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Questions?

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For more information please contact Realityworks, Inc.
through email at information@realityworks.com
or call toll free at 800.830.1416



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