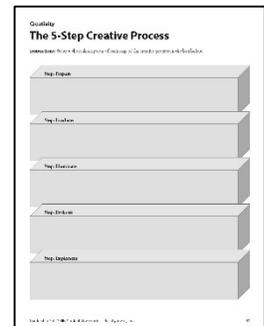


Activity 3 – Innovation Scenario

30-90 minutes

1. This activity is designed to help students put their creativity into action to solve a real problem. They will work individually to come up with the best idea and potential solution. They will also apply the 5-Step Creative Process to the task to help arrive at the solution. Tell students that they are part of the team for a new company called International Special Solutions Organization (ISSO). This organization focuses on providing solutions to problems and challenges faced by people with special needs. These issues could be faced by someone blind, deaf, cognitively challenged, paralyzed, etc. The first step in this activity is to identify a problem faced by someone with special needs. It could be something as simple as helping someone who can't see be able to read a label on something. Or if someone can't hear, how do they know if a fire alarm is going off?
2. Use the space in the *5-Step Creative Process* to help walk through this series of steps from start to finish.
3. An alternative to this idea is to have students identify any problem or issue.
4. Next students should spend some time learning about this problem or thinking more about it. It could involve researching to learn more. Are there other solutions to the problem now that they could do better? Has no one thought of a solution yet?

5. For step 3, students should then brainstorm a list of potential solutions to the problem that they have identified. They should review the list of possible solutions and narrow it down to the one they feel is their best idea.
6. In step 4, students should find a partner to pitch their idea to. In this step, they should be critical of their idea and of any idea they review for anyone else. Identify the issues that may need to be thought through further. Could this really work?
7. In step 5, put together a plan on how you would implement your solution.
8. Allow time for each student to present their ideas to the class in a short oral presentation.



People Skills

Being the Leader—Conversation Starters on the Job

Instructions: Read each of the scenarios below and write an appropriate question to start a conversation with the person or group described.

1. You are sitting in a conference room waiting for a cross-departmental meeting to start that you are to lead. You sit there for at least ten minutes waiting for the team members to arrive. An employee from another department who you have never met arrives and sits down next to you.

2. It is your first day on your new job as a manager in a local restaurant. There is one other person that you know from your gym that works there, but they are not on the same shift as you today. You are a new manager and a little unsure of yourself. One of your servers comes over to you and stands next to you in the dining area while you wait to start your first meeting.

3. It is a warm sunny day and many of your department employees are enjoying lunch outside, since the company catered in food as a reward for meeting a sales goal. You see a salesperson, who usually works from home, in the office for the day. You can't remember their name and they sit down beside you at the picnic table.

4. You need to complete a 6-month performance appraisal with Michael, who is located at a satellite office you don't visit very often. There have been many customer complaints regarding how Michael has handled things over the phone.

People Skills

Being the Leader—Conversation Starters on the Job

5. You are invited to participate on a leadership team with other managers from a variety of district offices. This team is supposed to develop a new social media use policy. You don't know any of the other managers on the team. You arrive at the meeting room and there are already 4 people in the room.

6. It is time for an annual performance review for Jake. Recently, a female colleague in his department has come to you to report an incidence of sexual harassment regarding Jake. You are in the midst of conducting an investigation into the matter, but haven't finished yet.

7. Your marketing team has fallen short of the annual revenue goal. This will impact the department bonus. They will not be receiving it. You have called a meeting together to break the news. How do you start the meeting?
