



eMentors for AVID

# Teamwork Scenarios Activity

**Directions:** In this activity, students practice their teamwork, communication, and leadership skills. Place the students in 3-5 groups. Give each group a different real-world scenario. Give students 5-10 minutes to make a plan to solve the problem in their scenario. By the end of this time, students must have written down: 1) a list of action steps they will take and 2) how much time they will spend on each step. Use the discussion questions below to reflect on the challenges of this activity.

## Leadership

Who was a leader in your group? What did they do that made them a leader? Can you see yourself acting the same way in the workplace? If so, how?

## Handling Disagreement

What did you do when you disagreed? What are some useful strategies to approach disagreement as a team? What do you think happens in a professional workplace, when employees disagree?

## Time Management

Did you have a deadline in your scenario(s)? How does having a time limit change your decision-making? What strategies did you use to save time?

## Division of Tasks

How did you decide what each person in your team would do? Was the workload divided equally? If not, why? How do you think tasks are divided in a workplace?

## Final Thoughts

After speaking with your classmates, what are some thoughts you have on how you could improve your ability to work in a team? How will you act differently on your next team project? Any other final thoughts?

1

**Directions:** Working as a team, decide how you will handle the following problem. Write down your plan, including what each member of your group will do and how long it will take them. Be prepared to explain your approach to the class.

You are a non-profit holding its annual fundraising dinner. You expect 500 guests to attend. The dinner will consist of appetizers and time to socialize/network, a meal, and a short presentation. Your guests are going to arrive in one hour and the caterer/food has not shown up. Also, unexpected construction has blocked access to the parking ramp your guests were supposed to park in. You have access to phones, computers, and wifi.



2

**Directions:** Working as a team, decide how you will handle the following problem. Write down your plan, including what each member of your group will do and how long it will take them. Be prepared to explain your approach to the class.

You are a shop that specializes in printing custom t-shirts. An order for one thousand t-shirts was supposed to be ready for today, but only half of the t-shirts have arrived at your shop. 250 are stuck in a warehouse two hours away. The other 250 were supposed to be printed at a different warehouse, but it's unclear if they were or not. The customer is at the shop and getting angry. You have access to phones, computers, wifi, and your own personal vehicles (but not company cars).



3

**Directions:** Working as a team, decide how you will handle the following problem. Write down your plan, including what each member of your group will do and how long it will take them. Be prepared to explain your approach to the class.

You are an architecture firm in the running to design a new sports stadium. The stadium owners would like you to provide: a brief history of your firm and its past projects, a concept sketch of the new stadium that includes blueprints, estimated cost of materials and labor, and a rough estimate of how long it will take to build. You will likely need to find and work with a contractor or construction company to determine some of this. You will present this to the stadium owners in one week. You have access to phones, computers, and wifi.



4

**Directions:** Working as a team, decide how you will handle the following problem. Write down your plan, including what each member of your group will do and how long it will take them. Be prepared to explain your approach to the class.

You are on the team of a political campaign. The media supervisor has tasked your group to make a 2-3 minute video targeted at young voters. You will need to tackle the project from start (think about ideas, scriptwriting) to finish (finding the appropriate platform for it and releasing it). About 4-5 hours of your day are taken up with making phone calls to voters, not all at the same time. Your team has 1 month to complete the project. You have access to computers, smartphones, and editing software. You will have to budget for and rent any other video equipment.



5

**Directions:** Working as a team, decide how you will handle the following problem. Write down your plan, including what each member of your group will do and how long it will take them. Be prepared to explain your approach to the class.

You are a school whose budget is being increased by \$100K. You could hire a teacher (\$45K), update your computers (\$50K), add a literacy or math specialist (\$35K), renovate the gym (\$100K), buy a new copy machine (\$75K), or do various smaller projects. You need to make sure that everyone in the building is 1) aware of the budget increase, 2) able to propose ideas about how to spend it and 3) able to hear other people's ideas. You also need to make sure the final decision is financially sound and communicated tactfully to your staff.



6

**Directions:** Working as a team, decide how you will handle the following problem. Write down your plan, including what each member of your group will do and how long it will take them. Be prepared to explain your approach to the class.

You are a theater company about to put on its first show (budget \$50K). You need to decide what show you will produce (and come up with a thoughtful decision-making process to do so), plus hire or delegate responsibility for building sets, making costumes, blocking/choreographic, etc. You do not yet have a stage space. Half of you have full-time jobs and half of you have part-time jobs. Half of you own a car, the other half uses public transit. Your goal is to have the show ready in time for the Minnesota Fringe Festival, which is in six months.



7

**Directions:** Working as a team, decide how you will handle the following problem. Write down your plan, including what each member of your group will do and how long it will take them. Be prepared to explain your approach to the class.

You are a car company looking to create a new kind of car engine that runs solely on water. Each of your teammates has expertise in clean energy cars, but no one has made something as ambitious as this. You will need to research, design, and experiment many times over. Plus, you will have to share your findings with your teammates as quickly as possible. At least one person will need to manage the budget of your project, and at least one person will be in charge of managing space and material requirements. You need to complete this project before your competitors do.



8

**Directions:** Working as a team, decide how you will handle the following problem. Write down your plan, including what each member of your group will do and how long it will take them. Be prepared to explain your approach to the class.

You are a tech company about to launch an app. You've promised to go live tomorrow, but there is a glitch in the app. You do not know where in the code the error is. Your main software engineer is out of the country and unavailable, but the rest of your team is in the area. They are not yet aware of the problem. You either need to fix the problem or think about a strategy for delaying the launch without alienating your potential customers and angering the app stores hosting your product. You have computers, wifi, office space, etc.



9

**Directions:** Working as a team, decide how you will handle the following problem. Write down your plan, including what each member of your group will do and how long it will take them. Be prepared to explain your approach to the class.

You are a PR firm with a high-profile client that has just been arrested for tax fraud. Your client has a history of public meltdowns and is demanding to defend themselves in the media as soon as possible. You need to release a statement to the press and think about whether or not to have someone speak to televised media. You also need to figure out a way to get your client from the police station to their home with minimal photographs. Your job begins now and ends when your client is safely at home and a media strategy is in place.

