

FOCUS

A Herff Jones Impact Resource For Advisers

March, 2004

MARCH FOCUS: Leadership & Critical Thinking

BEING A LEADER

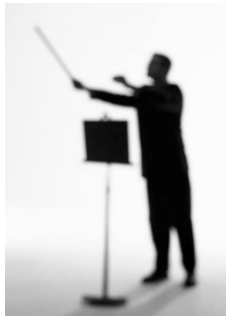
A good leader:

- * Motivates
- * Encourages
- * Delegates
- * Rewards
- * Is Objective
- * Gets the facts before acting
- * Takes action based on the facts

Traits of a good leader:

- * Courage
- * Decisiveness
- * Dependability
- * Judgment
- * Integrity
- * Sensibility
- * Loyalty
- * Enthusiasm
- * Endurance
- * Initiative

A good exercise is to ask students to add to these lists and discuss why these are important for leadership.



MOTIVATIONAL COMMUNICATION

Use phrases like:

- I like that!
- Go ahead, try it!
- This is going to be fun!
- How can I help!
- I agree.
- That's a great idea.
- How can we make it work?

Avoid phrases like:

- The problem with that idea is ...
- It's not in our budget.
- We've tried that before.
- It'll never work.
- Why start anything now?
- It's not a bad idea but...
- It will never be approved.

MINUTE MYSTERIES

Minute Mysteries help to develop critical thinking and lets a group work cooperatively on a common problem. They are also fun!

Before starting, tell the group that they are to solve the mystery by asking questions that can only be answered "yes" or "no." Ask anyone who has heard the mystery not to give away the answer. Try to

encourage fact-finding questions. If the group doesn't get the answer, stop and review what has already been asked. Don't just give them the answer. Hints may eventually be necessary, but don't let the group give up too soon. Teach them persistence and patience. During processing, talk about the type of questions asked, explore feelings, and what it takes to be successful.

Gone Hunting

Mystery: Two people went hunting. One was the father of the other one's son. How is this possible?

Answer: The two hunters are husband and wife.

A Walk In The Rain

Mystery: A woman left the building and started out for a short walk home. Suddenly it began to rain. Even though she was totally unprepared for rainy weather, not a hair on her head got wet. Why not?

Answer: The woman was bald. The building is a hospital. She is receiving chemo therapy treatment for cancer.

This newsletter is a joint effort of Jackie Burch and Herff Jones, Inc.

(continued on Page 2)

MINUTE MYSTERIES

(continued from Page 1)

The Man In The Mask

Mystery: A young woman was afraid to go home because of the man in the mask. What is the situation?

Answer: The man is a catcher on a baseball team. The woman is a base runner.

Reading, Right

Mystery: A man and a woman are quietly reading together. The woman gets up and turns out the light. The man continues to read. How is this possible?

Answer: The man is blind and reading in Braille.

Piercing Dilemma

Mystery: A mother takes her child to have her ears' pierced. The mother decides that she would also like to get her ears pierced. However, the attendant states that she cannot pierce the mother's ears. Why?

Answer: The mother is only 17. She needs her mother's permission to get her ears pierced because she is under 18.

I'M GOING ON A TRIP

Ask the group to form a circle. Ask them to think of things that they would take on a trip. Point at someone to go first. The player begins by saying their

name and an item that they want to take with them that begins with the same letter as their first name. Example: "I'm Jackie and I'm taking a jacket on the trip." The next person would say, "Jackie is taking a jacket. My name is Chip and I'm taking a computer." The next player would say, "Jackie is taking a jacket, Chip is taking a computer and my name is Mike and I'm taking a melon." This continues around the circle until it gets back to Jackie. If a player has trouble remembering they can ask someone for help.

Discussion questions:

- Did you like the activity?
- Did it help you to learn everyone's name?
- Did anyone in the group say anything that made you feel uncomfortable?
- How did you feel when you forgot something?
- If you could go anywhere on a trip where would you go?

TEACHING STORIES

Two Buckets

Back in the days of the Old West, many times if you wanted water for your land you had to dig a well. There was a particular well that was deep and its water was cold and clear. People came from miles around just to use this well. It had two buckets. When one bucket was lowered into the well the other would come up as one went down. Now the buckets were not like most buckets because they could talk to each other. One day one of the buckets said, "I am weary of this life. No matter how many times I come up full, I always go down empty. I wish I had some other life." The other bucket replied, "I'm very happy, but then I look at my job differently from you. You say no matter how many times you come up full you always go down empty and you are discouraged. I say no matter how many times I go down empty, I always come up full of cool, refreshing water that many people need, and my job is an important and happy one. You see, it all depends on how you look at it."

Discussion questions:

- What thoughts ran through your mind as you listened to the story?
- What kind of bucket are you?
- What lesson did you learn?
- Do you know someone like the weary bucket?
- Do you know someone like the happy bucket?



THE TEST OF LEADERSHIP:

Turn around to see if anyone is following you.

