



# LESSON 5

## BUILDING TEAMS



**GENEROUS LEADERSHIP  
STARTS HERE**

[www.bigideaproject.org](http://www.bigideaproject.org)



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## Overview

In this lesson students come together to form their Big Idea Project teams around common interests and passions relating to social needs. Once formed, teams engage in team building activities that pave the way for the work they will be doing together.

**TIME: 40-50 MINUTES**

## COMMON CORE STANDARDS

### CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.1

Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

## KEY ICONS



## Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- ✓ Articulate the impact they want to make through the Big Idea Project and/or the social needs they would like to tackle.
- ✓ Form teams with like-minded peers and practice cooperative problem solving.
- ✓ Create a metaphor for teamwork from examples and their own experience.

## Materials:

- ✓ Computer with Internet, projector and screen
- ✓ Optional: a *Generous Leader Vignette*
- ✓ White board and markers or flip chart and pens
- ✓ A team building activity of your choice (see Ideas for Supplemental Learning)
- ✓ Materials for completing your team building activity
- ✓ Optional: video of Steve Jobs' interview about polished rocks
- ✓ Copy of their **How I Am a Generous Leader** worksheet from last class
- ✓ Poster of the class mind map from Lesson 3

## Preparation

- ✓ View the *Generous Leader Vignette* video and the optional Steve Jobs video in advance and have them cued up before class.
- ✓ Review your team building activity in advance and be sure to make all necessary preparations
- ✓ Arrange for another location where you class can meet.

## Ideas for Supplemental Learning

- ✓ Suggested team building activity is the Marshmallow Challenge made famous by Tom Wujec. For more team building activities go to [www.teampedia.net](http://www.teampedia.net).
- ✓ Show videos of team building activities when available instead of just telling students about the activity.
- ✓ Take students off-site to participate in a team building activity such as a ropes course. (This has an additional cost.)
- ✓ Hire an outside team building facilitator to lead an exercise or even a half-day event. (This has an additional cost.)

**BIG TIP!**

Find a location that is different from your normal location. Some ideas include: outside, another classroom, gym or cafeteria.



### Optional: Generous Leader Vignette

1-2 MINUTES

- ✓ Choose one of the short *Generous Leader Vignettes* from your online resource library.



### Making Metaphors

5 MINUTES

*“One way to get creative juices flowing is to practice making metaphors. A metaphor is a comparison between two things or ideas that share similar characteristics. For example, if you are overwhelmed by a massive amount of homework, you might say, ‘I’m drowning in homework.’ Or, if your friend is crushed by a recent break up you might say they are ‘suffering from a broken heart.’ Let’s practice.”*

- ✓ Other examples of metaphors:
  - Her eyes were sparkly diamonds
  - My anger is a lion
  - The world is a stage
  - He runs as fast as a cheetah
  - The hug was as warm as a blanket
- ✓ Pass out a half-sheet of paper to each student
- ✓ Ask students to come up with a metaphor for each of the following prompts. Give them 30 seconds for each one. Ask 2-3 students to share their metaphors out loud before moving to the next one.
  - “Anger looks like \_\_\_\_\_.”
  - “A voice like \_\_\_\_\_.”
  - “Love is \_\_\_\_\_.”



### Mingle

7 MINUTES

*“Many of you may have a good idea of who you want to work with, but keep an open mind. Sometimes the best teams are those where every student shares a similar interest in a social need or issue. Our next activity will give you a chance to learn more about the social issues that we all care about. This may or may not influence who you choose to team up with for your Big Idea Project.”*

- ✓ Give students 2 minutes to review their **How I Am a Generous Leader** handout and mind maps from last two classes.
- ✓ Have students write down their top three social issues they care deeply about.
- ✓ Lead students through the game of 'Mingle.' Give the directions for the game first:
  - All students will get up and 'mingle' around the room by moving around and pretending to have conversations (like musical chairs).
  - When you call out 'Pair up!' they have to quickly find one other person near them and link arms.
  - They have 15 seconds to share their lists with each other.
  - If they find similarities, they should quickly talk about them and make a mental note of who shares similar interests
  - Repeat the game for 5 minutes so that students speak with at least 12 other people. Each round they need to link arms with a new person.



## Form Teams

5 MINUTES

*"Now I will give you 5 minutes to form your teams. Consider those you would work well with and those who share similar passions as you."*

- ✓ Give them 5 minutes to form their teams.
- ✓ Teams need to come to you to give you their names for your records.



## Teamwork is Like a Bunch of Rocks

5 MINUTES

*"Just like we came up with metaphors at the beginning of our time, so did Steve Jobs for the concept of teamwork."*

- ✓ Share Steve Jobs' metaphor of polished rocks and teamwork either by showing the video clip of his interview (google 'Steve Jobs polished rocks') or you can retell the story yourself. Here are his words:

*"When I was a young kid there was a widowed man who lived up the street. He was in his eighties. He was a little scary looking. And I got to know him a little bit. I think he may have paid me to mow his lawn.*

*One day he said to me, 'Come on into my garage, I want to show you something.' And he pulled out this dusty old rock tumbler. It was a motor and a coffee can and a little band between them. And he said, 'Come on with me.' We went out into the back and we got some rocks. Some regular old ugly rocks. And we put them in the can with a little bit of liquid and little bit of grit powder, and we closed the can up and he turned this motor on and he said, 'Come back tomorrow.'*

*And this can was making a racket as the stones went around.*

*I came back the next day and we opened the can. And we took out these amazingly beautiful polished rocks. The same common stones that had gone in, through rubbing against each other, creating a little bit of friction, creating a little bit of noise, had come out these beautiful polished rocks.*

*That's always been in my mind my metaphor for a team working really hard on something they're passionate about. It's that through the team, through that group of incredibly talented people bumping up against each other, having arguments, having fights sometimes, making some noise and working together, they polish each other and they polish the ideas, and what comes out are these beautiful stones."*

- ✓ Ask one student to summarize Steve Jobs' metaphor for teamwork.  
"Teamwork is like \_\_\_\_\_."

*"Now we get to practice a little bit of teamwork."*



## Team Building

15-25 MINUTES

*"Working together to solve problems builds the strength of a team."*

- ✓ Lead students in the team building activity you selected in advance.



## Your Metaphor for Teamwork

2 MINUTES

- ✓ As an exit strategy, ask each team to come up with their own metaphor for teamwork based on what they just experienced together through the team building activity. Share the metaphors out loud and record them on the board.