

Working Together on a Project

PURPOSE

Groups will be working together to complete a simple project to better understand the strengths each Primary Color brings to a team, the role each team member is naturally gifted at filling, and how team members may be perceived.

CAUTION

Emphasize no Color Bashing. That means do not allow or promote making fun of any temperament, including negative comments or characterizations. Do not tolerate stereotyping. This is not the time to talk about weaknesses or to criticize the temperament.

MATERIALS

- *Working Together on a Project Reference Guide*
- Team Project Bags, one for each group. Suggestion: a small bag containing 10 toothpicks, one piece of 8 ½ x 11" paper, a 5 inch piece of string, and 4 paper clips. You can create your own project bags and include items more relevant to your environment.
NOTE: each bag should contain the same amounts and kinds of materials.
- Flip-chart paper and markers

APPROXIMATE TIME

45–60 minutes

SUGGESTED GROUP SIZE

6–15 participants

PROCESS

Introduction/Purpose (2 minutes):

Our days are filled with one project after another that make up what we call life! Sometimes we complete them solo, but most of the time we work with, or are dependent upon, others to help us accomplish the tasks that allow us to complete the project. The dynamics and diversity of teams add complexity to the ability to complete projects, but it also enriches the experience and the end results. When you understand the differences, strengths, and contributions that others bring to a project, you can better accept and adapt in order to work together, overcome adversity, work through conflict, and successfully complete the project. You can use Real Colors® as a structure to better understand people's preferences when they work to complete a common goal or project.

Say: *"Henry Ford said, 'Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success.' Much of our success, day to day, is dependent upon our ability to work together with those who are not like us, who often perform in ways not aligned to how we prefer to work. We can learn to better work together when we understand the preferences of others and how we can adapt our preferences for the good of the team and the project goal. In this activity, we will work through a fun project that will provide a foundation for us to begin to assess Real Colors® strengths and weaknesses when working as a member of a mixed color preferences project team. The project experience and our discussion following the project exercise will help build a better understanding that we can use in future project teams."*

Activity Instructions (20 minutes):

Before the activity:

- Review the *Working Together on a Project Reference Guide* prior to the activity to become familiar with the project preferences for each color. You can use this information in the discussion portion of the activity as needed.
- Prepare the Team Project Bags, enough for one bag per group (expect to put 4–6 people per group).

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