

FFA TEACHING GUIDE

NEW HORIZONS



HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE



Discussion Questions with a Twist!

Here are a few simple ways to utilize the discussion questions in your classroom:

- At the beginning of class, take five minutes to get students' creative minds thinking. Read the article as a group and reflect upon the discussion questions provided – these questions may provide an entirely new perspective to the article!
- Post the discussion questions on the board. Ask students to read the article and record their answers in their notebooks (journals) at the beginning or end of class.
- Provide every student access to an *FFA New Horizons* magazine. Ask students to read the article and record their answers to the discussion questions for homework. Generate a group discussion in the following days.

Perfect Balance – Sophomore Sam Cantwell successfully juggles three varsity sports and FFA

Sam has never let his physical limitations keep him from enjoying high school. In fact, his achievements – in the classroom, on the field, and in FFA – would be remarkable for anyone, let alone a deaf person. Sam offers great advice to others who might face similar challenges, "... if you're worried what others might think of you, don't be. Do what you want to do and just have fun with it."



ACTIVITY

The article contains a list of several activities in which Sam participates, including FFA, sports and other activities outside of school.

- Make a list of all the activities in which you are involved, including FFA, sports, extracurricular activities and activities outside of school. Try to estimate how much time you spend doing each activity every week.
- Track it. Create a chart to keep track of how you spend your time. The chart should include every hour of every day for seven days. Be sure to include meals, sleeping, video games, homework, sports practice, etc.
- At the end of the week see where you have "down time," or time spent watching TV, playing video games, etc. How could you turn this down time into an opportunity to serve others

OR

- Have students brainstorm a list of individuals or groups of individuals that have helped them to reach a goal or overcome an obstacle.
- Selecting one person or group from their list, have students draft a letter to that person or group thanking them for their help in achieving a goal or overcoming an obstacle. Provide envelopes for the students who wish to send their letter. Others should keep the letter in their notebooks.
- Brainstorm a list of service activities that are available in your community. Choose one service activity that is of interest to you to participate in during your "down time."



MEETING THE STANDARDS

National Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources Career Cluster Content Standards:

CS.01.01.07.c. Evaluate actions taken and make appropriate modifications to personal goals.

CS.01.02.01.c. Demonstrate human relation skills including compassion, empathy, unselfishness, trustworthiness, reliability and being friendly to co-workers.

CS.01.05.02.c. Perform leadership tasks associated with citizenship.

National Academic Standard Grade-Level Expectation:

NL-ENG.K12.5 Communication Strategies

NL-ENG.K-12.11 Participating in Society

LifeKnowledge Connections:

HS.104: Opportunities to Serve Others

HS.106: Involvement in Public Service



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Sam stated in the article, "... I also read lips, so if I'm close enough I can get information this way."

- *Sam finds different ways to overcome obstacles in order to achieve his goals. What is an obstacle that you had to overcome to achieve a goal?*
- *Identify and discuss ways that you overcame that obstacle.*
- *How have you helped others to overcome obstacles or achieve a goal?*



ADDITIONAL LINKS

View the Agricultural Educators Workroom for service opportunities:

http://www.ffa.org/index.cfm?method=c_aged.ShowAgEd&CFID=370319&CFTOKEN=45749599



TEACHER TIP

CHECK OUT THE "HEALTHY LIFESTYLES" SECTION ON CONFLICT RESOLUTION



You can't avoid it – every now and then we all face conflicts. It's a natural part of life. As a teacher, you may find yourself helping to resolve conflicts between students more often than you like. This article provides four tried-and-true steps for resolving conflict. Below is another quick method for resolving conflict while allowing you to remain neutral in the situation:

WOW Method

- W – What happened?** Have the parties calmly identify what happened or the cause of their conflict.
- O – Ownership.** Both parties need to take ownership for their part in the conflict. Help both parties to understand that this is not the blame game--there is an equal share of ownership for this conflict.
- W – What's next?** Identify steps that can be taken to resolve the conflict. Provide neutral conclusions that will help both parties to see the positive side of the situation.

WOW Method – Source Unknown

ARCHIVES, VIDEOS AND MORE at ffanewhorizons.org

Want more resources for your classroom? Check out ffanewhorizons.org, where you can download and print pages from past *FFA New Horizons* magazines, all the way back to October 2006. To access the digital magazines, visit ffanewhorizons.org and scroll down to the digital magazine link. Once you select your issue, you can download pages (or the entire magazine), e-mail the page link or print the magazine. Also on the *FFA New Horizons* website, you'll find educational videos, web extras and links to college and career information.

