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Rate How You Communicate!

Lesson:

Being a good communicator is critical to achieving success. It requires the ability to clearly express yourself while also listening and responding to others. Good communication skills will help you meet new people, advocate for yourself, resolve conflicts, and give fearless presentations and speeches. It's a skill you will use for your entire life, personally and professionally!

Instructions:

- **IMPORTANT: Only the Leader of this activity should see these instructions!**
- This activity can be done in person or over a video chat.
- Every participant needs a blank piece of paper and a pen. No pencils and no erasers!
- The participants will draw the shapes that the Leader calls out in this order – square, circle, X, triangle. Make sure everyone is done with a shape before you call the next one.
- No looking at other people's paper when you are drawing!
- When everyone is done, have them each show their paper to the group. Then the Leader shows everyone the image on the next page. Does it look the same? They drew all the same shapes, so why doesn't their page look like that?
- The issue is communication! The Leader purposely didn't give enough details.
- Have everyone flip their paper over, then have the Leader say the shapes again, but this time describe how they are aligned on the page.
 - Draw a square that takes up most of the page.
 - Draw a big circle that is right in the middle of the square but doesn't touch the square.
 - Draw an X that hits all four corners of the square.
 - Draw a triangle inside the circle that points up and touches the edge of the circle in three spots.
- Everyone shows their paper. Now how close did everyone get to the image? Why was it better this time? Could the Leader still communicate it better?
- Now have one of the participants become the New Leader and have everyone get another blank piece of paper. The New Leader draws the same four shapes on a blank piece of paper but in a different configuration. Then, without showing it to anyone, the New Leader communicates how to draw the four shapes and has everyone show their paper. Who got closest? How could the New Leader have communicated it better?
- Have every participant take turns as the New Leader.

