

Team Building Exercise: Based on the game “Word War” A Competitive Crossword Game (TM designate U.S. trademarks of Western Publishing Company, Inc)

Instructions: Assign groups with four to seven people or more. Group forms a huddle. Each group receives one Dry Erase marker and one Crossword Board with four vowels (A, I, O, U, E) already on the board in various locations. Timer is set for 7 minutes or less. Instructor calls out a letter and person on team places letter on the board based on groups suggestion. Goal is to form a word. First group to form a word raises hands, timer stops. Word is verified. Timer and game resume until another group forms a word or time runs out. Pause timer every time a group forms a word, verify word and resume the game until time runs out. Winners are the first group to identify a word and the group with the highest score based on word letters (1 point for each letter. If other words are identified in the word, then receive one additional point for each letter of additional words). Example: The word Discover has six words in it. Total possible points for discover are 32.

At the end of the exercise ask the following questions:

1. Who became the leader? Why?
2. How did you feel as the leader?
3. How did you feel following the leader?
4. How did you feel regarding the instructions or the exercise?
5. How did you feel when you found a word (completing the tasks)?
6. How did you feel not finding the word (not completing the tasks)?

7. What did you learn from this exercise?

Goal of the activity: Learn how to work as a team. Follow the leader. Engage all team members. Provide positive affirmations when completing a task. Provide support and encouragement when tasks are incomplete and find a new strategy. Maintain faith. Find enjoyment in the activity/tasks/process. Ask questions for clarification. “Vie with others”.