



PROJECT MONTGOLFIER

An Explanation

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Introduction

As young people transition from education to the world of work there is an increased pressure to multi task and manage heavier workloads. A vital skill is understanding personal strengths and weaknesses and using this to assist your team in achieving its goals.

Project Montgolfier is a team challenge with up to 8 members per team (maximum of 3 teams) The team is given a seemingly impossible task to achieve in a very short space of time. The only possible way of doing this is to manage time effectively and work to the group's individual strengths.



So what is Project Montgolfier?

Each plays the role of a top secret surveillance company and you are about to pitch for a government contract. Time is short and the competition is stiff. There are other companies trying to get the contract as well. Your challenge is in three parts:

- Create a surveillance device capable of filming from the air (footage must be shown)
- Create a 30 second TV advert
- Pitch your ideas to a panel of government procurement officers

The best team (measured on the results of the 3 parts) will get the contract.

This is a complex project where identification of skills within the group is essential. This includes effective time management, teamwork and working under pressure.

Each team will be provided with various options for creating aerial footage and bonus points are awarded for creativity and initiative.

The activity is split into 4 areas:

- Understanding the brief and completing a skills audit
- Planning & preparation (who does what during the activity)
- Working on three tasks
- Review and evaluation

The whole purpose of the activity is to explore and observe how individuals react in a situation which is outside of their normal experience. Observers will share feedback to the group afterwards and draw out lessons learned. They will be looking how participants chose resources, used planning skills, handled their budget, tested equipment, delivered their presentations etc. This is an experiential exercise giving opportunities for personal observations and development.



Who is it suitable for?

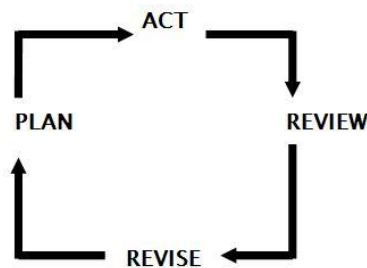
Although the activity is suitable for all age groups it is most effective for those making the transition from education to the world of work. It is best suited to young people aged 15+ years. Ideal numbers are 3 teams of up to 8 people.

The training approach used

The emphasis of the programme is to provide a supportive, practical and fun learning environment for the group. The programme will be designed to provide the education and opportunities to understand and develop interpersonal and team skills.

The first sessions will be to clear the ground, state the aims and objectives, introduce the process and get an agreement regarding team goals. There will also be some education and information regarding how successful teams work in order for the delegates to understand and define their team development needs.

The event will work through the experiential process described in the cycle below.



Each team exercise will be reviewed and participants invited to critically examine their collective and individual effectiveness. This typically provides individuals and teams with further stimulus and direction to practice new approaches.

Possible Learning Outcomes for Students

- Teamwork
- Confidence building
- Financial literacy / budget planning
- Effective communication
- Innovation - using quality equipment to encourage learning
- Creativity
- Positive attitude - motivation, energy
- Using initiative - reacting to working in a live environment
- Organisation and Planning - prioritising task, managing time/workloads
- Decision making and problem solving
- Leadership

Facilitation & Review

This type of experiential learning provides a rich mix of opportunity to conduct in depth review on processes in the areas of soft skills. Even in the event of students not fully engaging in the activity, many lessons can be drawn through consideration of behaviours shown. The evaluation and review is an important element of this exercise and it is hoped students will take away many ideas for self improvement.



Conclusion

Project Montgolfier is a powerful exercise challenging individual teams. It is deliberately designed as a competitive exercise. It makes use of different technologies specifically appealing to the 15+ age group.

If you are looking for a fun, fast paced teambuilding challenge, aim to fly high!