

Kansas 4-H 2020-2021 State-wide Communication Project Activities Sunflower Extension District

Your Extension Office will make copies for you.
Let them know which pages you would like copied and the number of copies you need.
Activities do not need to be completed in order.

Activity 1: Communication and Me

Activity 2: Follow My Lead

Activity 3: Jumping In

Activity 4: Let's Write

Activity 5: Illustrated Talks

Activity 6: Do-able Demo

*Each activity contains a handout and closing questions for you to ask your group.



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Communication & Me (Activity 1)

Supplies: Handout and pencils/pens

To be an active listener, it is important to remember:

Listen now, repeat later

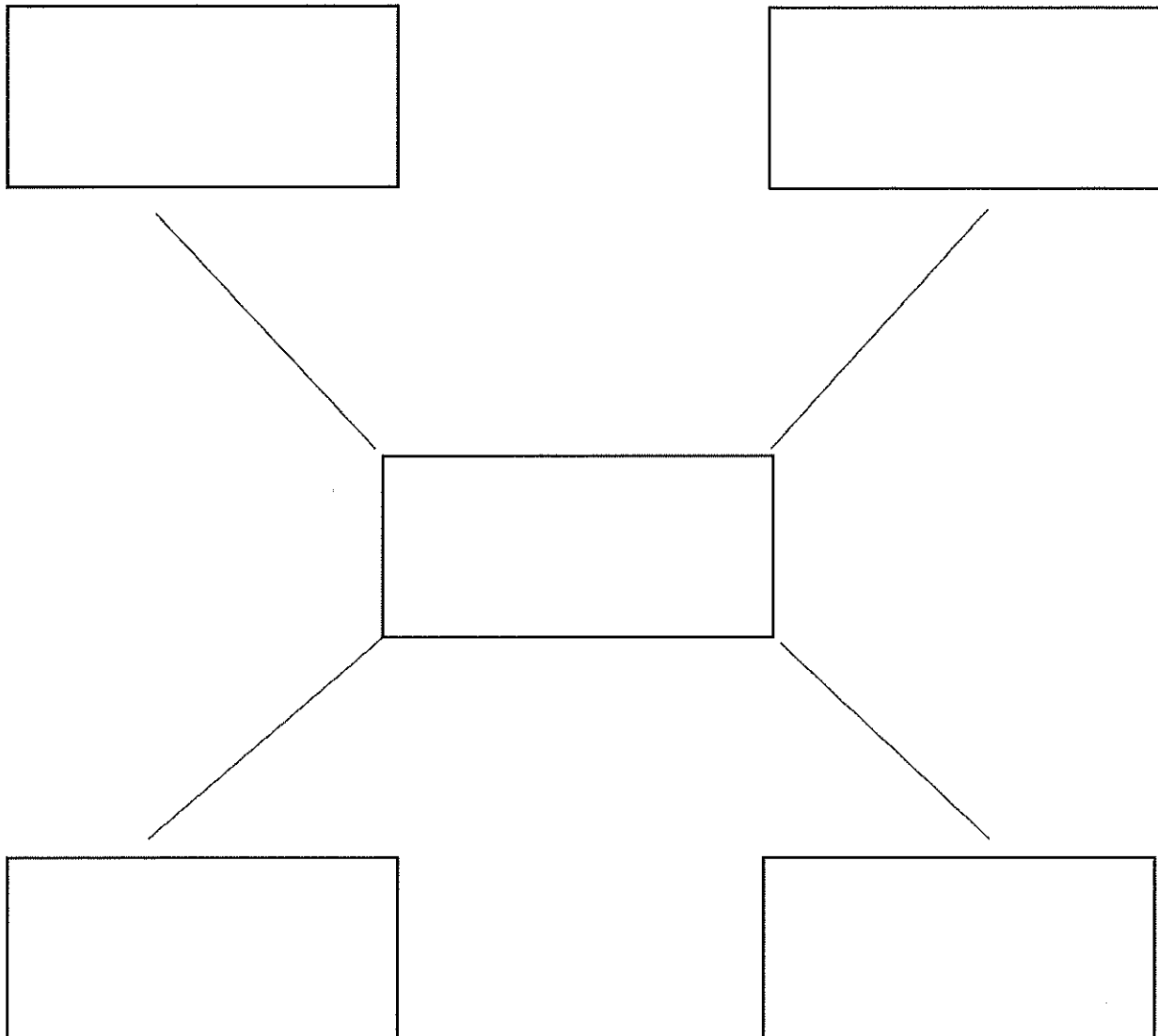
Express interest to listen

Be present (don't think about other things when someone is talking)

Use your whole body to listen

Control emotions and distractions

- (1) Think of an exciting experience you have had recently that you would like to share with others.
- (2) Write a word or words in the middle rectangle describing the experience.
- (3) Think of ways you can share our experience with at least four (4) people in four (4) different ways.
- (4) Draw a picture or write words in each of the four (4) remaining rectangles identifying different communication methods.
- (5) Partner up with someone and share your exciting experience with them and talk about the ways you could share it with other people.



Communications & Me

How many different modes of communication have you used today? What ways do people react based on the different ways you present information to them?

Time Needed
15 Minutes

Materials
Pencil & paper

Learner Outcomes

Become aware of own communication preferences; Introduce verbal/non-verbal messages and active listening.

Education Standard(s)

Common Core Standards. Speaking & Listening K-5. Report on an experience in an organized manner. Use different presentation forms when appropriate.

Success Indicator

Describing various modes of communication and creating a communication web

Life Skill(s)

Communicating with others. Communicating s appropriate verbal and non-verbal messages

Introduction

The world of communication focuses on the sending and receiving of messages and information through writing, signals, or speech. Delivering a message so that the person listening understands the message as the speaker intended them to is an important part of communication. Often times, delivering this message involves using several different modes of communication at the same time. It is important to understand how to use these modes to communicate your message in the best way. These modes can be verbal and non-verbal. Gestures and facial expressions are examples of non-verbal communication, while words, notes, e-mails, or phone conversations are verbal modes of communication.

Although listening is very important, most people do not think of it as a communication skill. In reality, listening is a skill that is important to polish. The meaning of a message is an exchange of information between the sender and the receiver. Active listening helps achieve mutual understanding. To be an active listener, it is important to remember the following:

- Listen now, repeat later
- Express interest to listen
- Be present (don't think about other things when someone is talking)
- Use your whole body to listen
- Control emotions and distractions

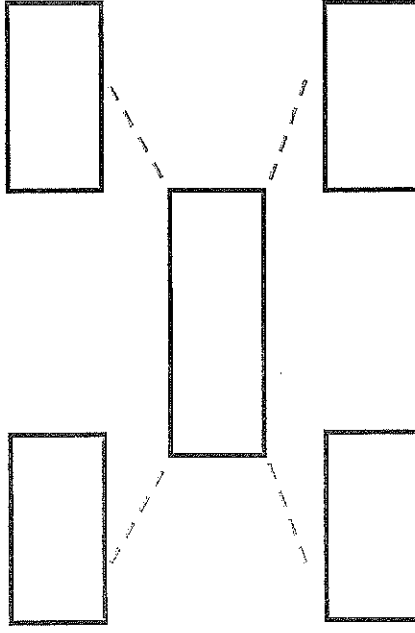
Learn More

"Tips for Listening" in *Voices from the Past*: <http://ryi.nvex.edu/withapplications/voices-from-the-past/>

Experience / What to Do
Have the youth think of an exciting experience they have had recently that they would want to share with others.

Have them brainstorm how they can share their experience with at least four people in four different ways. Examples you can share with youth who are struggling to find ways might include making a video, telling a story, creating a slideshow, or writing a poem.

1. Give each student a piece of paper and writing utensil.
2. Have them draw a picture or paste a picture that represents the experience in the middle of the paper.



3. Branching off the center circle, have each youth come up with different modes of communication they can use to share their experience. Have them come up with as many modes as possible and represent them with pictures or text.

4. Finally, have the youth partner up and share the experience with one another using one of the modes they identified. Have them share their experience with at least three different people using different modes of communication.

Talk It Over...

Share...

- What communication modes did you identify?
- Which modes did you use to communicate your message to someone else?
- Which mode of communication was your favorite?
- What made certain types of communication easier than other types?

Reflect...

- What surprised you about the outcome?
- Why is it important to have different forms of communication for specific situations?
- Was there a mode of communication that the listener reacted to more than others?

Generalize...

- What can you improve about the way you communicate in different ways?
- How can these improvements make you a more effective communicator?

Apply...

- How have you used the different modes of communication in recent experiences?
- What types of situations require specific modes of communication?

References
Activity adapted by Amy Peyton, Iowa 4-H Intern
Reviewed by Judith Levings, Associate Director, Iowa 4-H Youth Development and Mitchell Hoyer, Iowa 4-H Program Specialist
Join the activity "Communications and Me" in Picking Up The Pieces: Communication Activities for Youth produced by
The National 4-H Cooperative Curriculum System, Inc. (2005)

