



Making the Character Connection with...

Communications

Clowning
Communications
Making the Point
Public Speaking

Being a person of good character means you follow the Six Pillars of Character_{SM} every day. Whether you are a budding writer, plan to be a motivational speaker, or just want to enhance your everyday communications skills, this project will give you many ways to expand your knowledge and proficiency. It will also provide many ways of sharing what you have learned with others. Communicating with others is an important way of showing others your true character. What you say and write tells a lot about you.

This Character Connection contains:

- **Explanation of the Six Pillars of Character.**
- **Explanation of how the Six Pillars of Character relate to the Communications project.**
- **Activities suggesting how to demonstrate good character while enhancing your knowledge about communications.**
- **Questions to help you think of other ways to demonstrate good character in everyday life.**

Character Connection: Communications		
Trustworthiness	Responsibility	Caring
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Live by your principles no matter what others say ✓ Be honest with your project leader and others taking the project ✓ Honor your word and commitments ✓ Keep secrets of those who trust you (but not at the expense of someone's safety or well-being) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Complete your project on time ✓ Work hard - Put forth the best effort possible ✓ Do what you say you will do; be where you say you will be ✓ Set realistic goals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Do what you're good at; others will appreciate your expertise ✓ Share your knowledge with others ✓ Help others
Respect	Fairness	Citizenship
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Listen to others and try to understand their points of view ✓ Show respect for different views ✓ Value everyone's their opinions and ideas ✓ Don't communicate in ways that are harmful to others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Be fair and just ✓ Allow everyone to speak before making group decisions ✓ Be careful - get facts, including opposing viewpoints, before making decisions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Be a volunteer; help out whenever you can ✓ Play by the rules of your local clubs and fairs ✓ Participate in making things better by voicing your opinion and serving on committees

Character Connection: Communications

Activity: Grab Bag Demonstrations

DO:

It's time to become a teacher! What? You don't think you are a teacher? Every time you explain, demonstrate, or illustrate an idea, you are teaching. Being able to teach is an important communication skill and it also gives you many opportunities to exhibit your very best character traits. This activity will not only help you with your communication skills but will also help others in your group. This is a perfect activity for your next 4-H club meeting. Collect the following items and put them in separate paper bags. Each bag should contain items that could be used for a simple demonstration:

1. bowl, egg, and egg beater
2. hole puncher and paper
3. shoe and lace
4. stapler and 2 pieces of paper
5. hammer, nail, and piece of wood
6. bolt and nut
7. needle, thread, and fabric
8. picture and picture frame
9. notebook paper and notebook
10. paper and pencil

Each club member is to select one bag. Allow a few minutes' planning time, then give each member 3 minutes to describe what the items are and show the group how to use them. Members may have paper to write down what they want to say. After the preparation time, each member gives his or her demonstration. As demonstrations are given, encourage group members to give positive comments.

If time permits, allow members to select a partner and give another demonstration together. This encourages teamwork and cooperation, and it pools the knowledge of two people.

REFLECT:

1. Did the members have sufficient information and time to prepare their demonstrations?
2. What other things could be added to make these presentations better?
3. What can be gained from demonstrations?

APPLY:

Demonstrations are an excellent way to learn and practice communication skills like planning, decision making, problem solving, and of course speaking in front of a group. Encourage project groups to prepare demonstrations and share them at senior citizen centers or retirement homes or for classmates at school.



Character Connection: Communications

Activity: Making the Perfect Visual Workshop

DO:

This activity encourages you to put into practice what you have learned in your communications program and also to share that information with other 4-H members. This is a great way to show others you care for and respect them.

Plan a workshop – maybe before or after your regular 4-H club meeting – that will help members of your club make great posters and visuals for the demonstrations they plan to present at a local event or the county fair. Use the information that is provided in the Communications Toolkit project literature beginning on page 55. Be sure to have supplies on hand, and encourage others to bring supplies that are specific to their demonstration.

Be sure to help members with using large letters and limiting the number of words on the poster.

REFLECT:

1. How did it feel to teach others what you have learned?
2. What was their reaction to your help?
3. Is this something you would consider doing another time? What would you change about the workshop?

APPLY:

The skills you are learning in the communications project can be used in so many ways to help your friends and community. Maybe your project group can offer to make the signs for an upcoming school or community event.



Character Connection: Communications

Activity: On-line Safety

DO:

We live in an electronic world with many possibilities for communicating with people all over the world. E-mail and social networking sites can seem so private – a good way to visit with your friends – but they can also be very public. It is very important to understand how to be safe and still enjoy all these advanced forms of communication. Help your classmates or club members stay safe while using these modes of communication. Start with the information that is found in the Communications Toolkit and expand your knowledge by searching for information of using on-line technology safely. The Safety Rules for Online Time in the project materials is a good place to start. Add other suggestions to this list, such as only inviting people you know to your social networking site. Share your list at the next club meeting and ask others to add their suggestions.

REFLECT:

1. Why do you think this activity was suggested?
2. Had you really taken time to think about your on-line safety before taking this project?
3. What was the reaction of other club members to this activity?

APPLY:

You may feel your parents are overprotective of you and way too concerned about your use of the internet and worldwide web. Remember, part of becoming a person of character is to give others (your parents in this case) the opportunity to tell you why they are concerned and then you also should listen, really listen, to others' points of view. What other things do you and your parents disagree on? Don't forget you have 4-H leaders who are willing to listen to your point of view, too, and they may help you understand others' points of view.

