

Communication Challenge – Year 12 Brief

As part of the ongoing **Shattering Stereotypes** project, we are asking the Year 8 classes to participate in one final challenge. We need you to help us on the day by becoming a **group facilitator**.

Back in the autumn, they took part in a discussion on gender stereotyping. There they looked at how everything from toys, to sports to subject choices at school can be influenced by assumptions people make based on gender. Now it's their turn to tackle these stereotypes and communicate this to other audiences.

For more details of the challenge please have a look at the Year 8 information sheet.

As a facilitator you will be assigned to a specific group. Your role is to help the group develop a project and make sure they have something to present at the end of the day. Your big challenge will be to make sure they deliver without taking over the project yourselves.

This will give you a chance to develop facilitation skills. These are very much in demand across all sorts of industries. What you learn on the day will be useful for you in many tasks at university and in the workplace.

Some advice:

- **Listen**. The project is theirs, so listen to their ideas, however crazy they may be.
- **Keep a positive attitude**. Don't outright reject an idea, however crazy and impractical it may be. Instead think about any positive angles to the idea and guide the enthusiasm to something more practical.
- **Kick start discussions**. Facilitators will tend to do more work towards the start of the day, when the groups will be more quiet and shy. If your group is particularly quiet at the start, ask the group open questions to start discussions.
- **What's an open question?** This is a questions that leads to discussion and doesn't require a yes / no answer. Questions starting with *How*, *Why* and *What* tend to be good open questions.
- **Keep things moving!** On the day we will provide you with timings for when the different steps will need completing by. If the group can't decide on what to do, ask them to make a decision. If they still happen, you may need to step in and steer

towards what the majority want.

- Don't let one student **dominate discussions**. There may be quiet students who would like to share ideas. Make sure everyone gets a voice.
- If you're stuck or worried, **ask for help!** There'll be Shattering Stereotypes staff and teachers around to help.

Some advice for each of the steps of the challenge.

STEP One: Your group needs to decide on an audience. They may have done this before the Challenge Day. Give everyone a chance to say who they'd like to work with. Make sure they decide on one and that they don't backtrack.

STEP Two: Each group has been given a few initial discussion questions to get things going. Go through each of these with the group. Help by writing on a flip chart. There are no simple answers for these and the answers will help decide what the project looks like.

STEP Three: The group needs to decide what they are going to make to help them communicate to their chosen audience. Same as STEP One, make sure they decide on something. There won't be a lot of time to try many different projects.

STEP Four: Make sure everyone in the group has something to do. There isn't a lot of time so they need to work together to make sure they get to the end point. Each group needs to prepare a short presentation too. Some will forget they need to do this.

STEP Five: Sit back and cheer your group on!

Thanks for all your help with the project. This experience will be useful for you to talk about in applications and interviews for both universities and the work place.