



Activity Tips

GRADES 3 - 5

ACTIVITY

What matters most?

OVERVIEW

In this activity, participants have multiple opportunities to understand the difference between the concepts of *wants* and *needs*. This understanding is extended to the understanding that all people have wants and all people have needs. The activity includes the opportunity for the participants to recognize that different people may have different needs and wants.

OBJECTIVES

Participants in this activity will:

- Understand that all people have wants and needs.
- Recognize that different people may have different wants and needs.

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY

- A day or two prior to the activity, challenge the participants to identify their own wants and needs. Don't provide any comments concerning their choices – leave that discussion for the activity.
- Define the two concepts, *needs* and *wants*. This would be a good opportunity for the participants to gain experience using a dictionary. Webster defines the terms as such.
 - Want = to desire greatly; to wish for
 - Need = something necessary; obligation; requirementThese definitions correspond with the definitions used in the activity.
 - Want = something you would like to have but could live without.
 - Need = something you cannot live without.There are only three *needs* that people have – food, clothing, and shelter. Everything else enhances our lives as *wants*.

DURING THE ACTIVITY

- The activity calls for participants to stop and think about their wants and needs in comparison with the wants and needs of others. Caution participants not to pass judgment of the wants and needs of others.
- Throughout the activity questions are posed to allow the participant to “Stop and Think” – encourage those opportunities to build decision-making skills.
- When definitions are provided, encourage participants to stop and think if they agree with the definitions. If they disagree, encourage them to be patient and work through the full activity.
- There are two opportunities for participants to practice their knowledge of the concepts. Encourage the participants to take their time and think carefully about each of the choices. If they select the incorrect choice and receive the “try again” message, remind them that such processes are part of the learning process.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY

Be sure the students can:

- Differentiate between a want and a need.
- Recognize that different people may have different wants and needs and such situations are acceptable.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

The abstract concepts of wants and needs can be difficult to understand for any age. Identify ways to reinforce the concepts by bringing to their attention instances when they use the terms *wants* and *needs* in a typical day.