



## **Empowerment Topic: Developing Communication Skills**

### **Lesson Objective**

To help students understand the importance of developing good communication skills.

### **Preparation**

Preview the video (2 minutes 43 seconds) in advance of the lesson.

### **Warm-up Activity**

1. Talk together about what the phrase "developing communication" means. (Tip: You may need to first define each term separately before helping students what the phrase means.)
2. Guide students to understand that the main forms of verbal communication include speaking and listening. Help students understand that such verbal communication can be informal (conversation) or formal (speeches, debates).
3. Ask students to take turns telling about times that they may have given or listened to a speech.
4. Asked students to explain why some people find it very difficult speaking in front of a group.
5. Invite students to explain why some people even have difficulty speaking up in ordinary conversation among family and friends.

### **View the Video: *Developing Communication Skills***

1. Tell students they will be watching the video titled, "Developing Communication Skills." (Tip: You can use steps 2, 3 and 4 to establish a framework for watching the video, or just skip ahead to step 5.)
2. Explain that the video presents role models discussing the importance of good communication skills.
3. Point out that the role models in the video offer a variety of tips for becoming a good speaker and a good listener.
4. Tell students that, as they view the video, they should listen for any communication ideas they have never heard before.
5. View the video together.
6. Tell students they are going to view the video again; before this second viewing, invite students to formulate questions or comments about the benefits (good parts) of developing good communication skills as discussed in the video and to be prepared to discuss these after viewing the video.

### **Video Follow-Up**

1. Ask students to talk or write about their video-related questions, comments, reactions and responses.

2. Invite students to note specific things they learned about the importance of speaking and listening skills (e.g., "I thought it was interesting when the one role models said that we can paint pictures with language.").
3. Encourage students to edit any written work so it can be shared with classmates.
4. Use student writings as a springboard to further discussion.

### **Extension Activities**

- Tell students that there are people with careers in the field of communications (and communication disorders), such as speech therapists, audiologists, media consultants, etc.
- Ask students to research such careers in communication. (They can begin their research by typing the phrase "careers in communication" into an online search engine.)
- Consider having a communications professional meet with your students in person, via text, voice and/or video so he or she can respond to comments and answer questions in real time.

### **Related Questions to Explore**

Use the list of questions below to help students learn more about the information presented in the video:

- In the video we learned that it is important to think before you speak. What does that mean? What would be the value in thinking before speaking? Do you think it is always possible to think before you speak? Why or why not?
- Do you agree that listening is more important than speaking? Why or why not? What are three ways you can practice being a good listener?
- What did the role model mean when she said that communication is a two-way channel? Talk about some situations where it's equally important for you to be a good listener as well as a good speaker.
- Why is it important to speak in a low, confident voice rather than in a loud, rapid voice?
- How do you think professional leaders prepare themselves to speak in front of a group of people? What can you learn from these speakers about battery your own communication skills?
- Besides exploring the Career Girls website, what are some other ways you can learn more about communication skills and careers in Communication?