



Unit 1

Defining, Evaluating and Managing Teams

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this unit the learner will be able to:

- ✓ Understand the value of working as a team
- ✓ Develop team norms, ground rules, and team contracts
- ✓ Identify your team player style and how it can be used effectively with your own team
- ✓ Build team trust

Defining, Evaluating and Managing Teams

What is a Team?

We like Glenn Parker's definition of a team: "A group of people with a high degree of interdependence geared toward the achievement of a goal or the completion of a task." (From *"Team Players and Teamwork"* by Glenn Parker)

What Does That Mean?

This means that members of a team agree on a goal and agree that the only way to achieve that goal is to work together. Some groups have a common goal but they don't work together to achieve it. For example, many teams are really groups because they work independently to achieve their goal. Some groups work together but they don't have a common goal.

Types of Teams

Knowing the type of team you are in can help you choose how to plan your work and what you expect as outcomes. Teams are everywhere, and their role as part of an organizational framework continues to evolve just as businesses and marketplaces do. From a practical perspective, most of us belong to multiple teams, with sometimes competing priorities.

Let's look at some of the most common types of teams.

Natural Work Groups

This is a group of people who work together each day in the same location, using the same machines and processes. The supervisor is in charge, but they may allow other team members to take the leadership role.

Business Team

Often a cross-functional team that looks after a specific product line or service.

Management Team

A group of managers and the person they mutually report to. Within a single organization, there can be different levels of management teams (executive, middle, and front-line, for example).

Self-Managed Team

This is a group of people who manage themselves. No one person in the group has the authority to make all the decisions about the events that impact the group. This is also referred to as a **self-directed** work team because everyone has authority and responsibility for all the decisions they have to make.

Product/Service Design Teams

This is a group that comes together for a specific time to work on a special project or task. This group has traditionally been called a **task force** or **committee**. They are usually a cross-functional group assigned to design or redesign a product or service.

Virtual and Remote Teams

With this type of team, members see one another in person rarely or not at all. They connect most frequently using web portals, the Internet, telephone, and e-mail. What makes these teams different (and sometimes challenging) is that they have to work together to accomplish goals, but they may not know each other that well. They can also fit any of the models listed above.

Test your Knowledge

Into which model does your team fit?

Why do you feel that way?

How would you define your team?

What model would be the ideal one for your work together?

Why?

Establishing Team Norms

Characteristics of Teams

Advantages	Disadvantages

Ground Rules

Having ground rules helps every team to succeed. Ground rules ensure that people on the team know what is expected of them, and that they all understand where they are going.

Use the space below to list what you want and don't want in a team.

Want	Don't Want

What are the three to five rules that are most important to your group?

Team Contracts

A team contract outlines the ground rules for the team. It is created and then monitored by the team. Some people get offended by the idea of a team contract; it's not ideal in every situation. We have included a sample contract below. Each team member should sign and date the contract.

Sample Team Contract

Code of Conduct

As a team we will:

- Be proactive and positive
- Keep other team members informed
- Focus on what is best for the team as a whole

Ground Rules

We will:

- Be respectful, fair, and honest in all communications
- Encourage opinions and discussion from all members
- Be open to new approaches and listen to new ideas
- Look at conflict and change positively
- Work together to achieve maximum results
- Follow best practices for decision making, communication, and meeting management
- Celebrate accomplishments and milestones

Meeting Guidelines

- Each meeting begins and ends on time
- Team has an agenda for every meeting and sticks to it
- Team members agree to prepare for meetings
- Cell phones will be muted (or perhaps not, if you are encouraging people to openly participate, share their thoughts, and accept the prevalence of these devices in the workplace)

Working as a Team

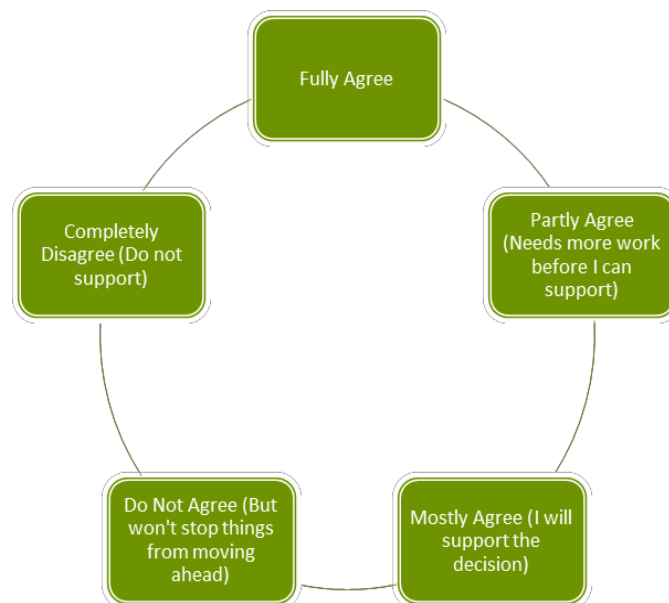
Success in the workplace depends on your ability to build a team and to interact with others on that team. Together, people can accomplish what one person alone cannot; this is called **synergy**.

However, it isn't always easy. Sometimes when we think about controversial subjects, our first response is to try to get away, or to make your involvement as short as possible. We have another way to look at agreements and disagreement, and that is to look at how strongly you feel about something instead of having to choose a firm position on one side or the other.

No Need for Black and White Thinking

As team members, we need some way to take the temperature and find out where people stand on an issue. This is a great tool to put on the flip chart, overhead, or just provide as a handout. It can help people decide where they stand on an issue. The Degrees of Support can help a team leader or member explain that consensus does not mean that everyone agrees to the same degree. The circular nature of the diagram (which reflects the symbol for degree, or °) demonstrates how we may increase or decrease the strength of our commitment to a decision in response to getting more information, considering a different perspective, and moving through the area of disagreement.

Degrees of Support



Little in life is really that clear that it needs to be discussed in terms of an absolute yes or no. Like the diagram, we really consider things in terms of degrees. Making agreements or clearing out conflict allows us to do the same thing.

The team leader can also ask questions of team members, such as “What changes to the project/task/plan do you need to have implemented in order to move toward agreement?”

Your Team Player Type

What’s Your Team Player Type?

There are many ways to discuss the personality types of people that we work and play with. Whether you use initials like the MBTI (Myers-Briggs Type Indicator), colors like Personality Dimensions,

edutainment like True Colors, the names of animals, or Greek philosophers, the idea is that there are base temperaments that we can relate to, and that we prefer. The science behind this kind of assessment relates back to the work of Carl Jung. It has been substantiated through tens of thousands of people who have completed and validated the questionnaires.

Scoring Example

Add the total number of points that you wrote beside each letter of the alphabet in the questionnaire. Pay close attention, since the letters are not always in order!

Scale

- 4 = Most like you
- 3 = A lot like you
- 2 = Somewhat like you
- 1 = Least like you

Terms

1. A driving need for you is:

3	C	To find meaning in life
4	A	To learn and gain knowledge
2	B	To belong
1	D	Freedom to do what you want

Scoring

A	
B	
C	
D	

Your Score

A	
B	
C	
D	

Total A's _____ Total B's _____ Total C's _____ Total D's _____

The letter with the highest total is most like you. Write it here: _____

The other letters are your next preferred styles. If your numbers are close to each other (within 5 points), you probably find it pretty easy to flex your style to those other categories. If your numbers are far apart, or one is much lower than the others, that is the area you will find it challenging to work within. You'll have the knowledge of how to do it once you work through the material below.

What Does it Mean To Have a Number?

In reality, we are a blend of all types, moving within the numbers and flexing into the other styles that our circumstances and our comfort levels dictate. This means that we are more like a blended drink than distinct ingredients. You'll recognize that you may behave one way at work (super organized, for example), and might be more relaxed at home, but return to your super organized self when stress at home increases.

As you read the descriptions below, see if they agree with how you behave as a member of your team at work, whether you are in meetings or working on a project. You'll also get some insight into how to connect with the different types in the descriptions.

Mostly A's – Inquiring Rationals

Inquiring Rationals are often **drawn to jobs like banking and engineering**. They like to figure out how things work. They consider the structure and configuration of things. They process information intuitively and look at the big picture. These are visionaries, like Albert Einstein and Bill Gates. When it is time to make decisions, they apply logic, and they don't get persuaded by emotions. If they don't respect you, you won't keep their attention. Experience and competency are very important to Inquiring Rationals.

This temperament profile makes up approximately **5 to 7% of the population**. Other notables in this group are Walt Disney, Ben Franklin, Margaret Thatcher, and Napoleon. To connect with Inquiring Rationals on your team, demonstrate your expertise in your work.

As a member of the team, you are the person who keeps track of things, most often with checklists and guidelines. You can be counted on to know what the assignment is and when it is due. You get frustrated with team members who are not big on details, or who want to try something new. You like to follow a recipe and you know where your tools are. You probably don't like surprises very much.

Most of the time you complete assignments in a timely and efficient manner, with all the needed detail. You also share the information and materials you have with other members of the team, and provide the technical training or background that they need. People usually see you as dependable, systematic, proficient, practical, and efficient.

Too much logic might mean that you are demonstrating some rigidity. Tap into your sense of humor and try to keep other people's styles in mind, especially if you are leading a team. You may go into data overload with long reports, push for unrealistic standards, and tend to lose patience with team climate and process issues.

Mostly B's – Authentic Idealists

Authentic Idealists are **natural teachers, counselors, and leaders**. They are benevolent and intuitive, and they focus on global issues like world poverty and humanitarian issues. Idealists love metaphors, stories, and symbols, rather than statistics and figures. They make decisions that reflect their values, and rely on emotion and instinct as opposed to logic. In fact, statistics and facts bore them. They are looking for significance, and they seek the truth.

The Authentic Idealist temperament makes up about **10% of the population**. Notable members of this group include Eleanor Roosevelt, Billy Graham, Mahatma Gandhi, Jane Goodall, Oprah Winfrey, and Albert Schweitzer.

Authentic Idealists are people-oriented. They don't want to rock the boat, and their focus is on having everyone in harmony on the team. They can focus more on people's feelings than results. They will step in to resolve process problems (for example, with conflict or lack of involvement), listen attentively while withholding judgment, and offer praise and recognition to other team members.

To connect with the Authentic Idealists on your team, share your values and personal convictions. Be authentic and reach out to them by telling stories that demonstrate your empathy. Appeal to personal ethics and a higher calling. Show that you care about them and each person in the room. Authentic Idealists are more interested in how much you care than how much you can cite statistics.

If your teamwork style is that of an Authentic Idealist, your strengths include making deep connections with your team at an emotional and personal level. You motivate and encourage. You're a good storyteller, so you find innovative ways to present your information. You have wisdom to share and are eager to do so. Your lack of ego about what you know makes you likeable. You have a sincere enthusiasm and empower people to act. People see you as encouraging, enthusiastic, supportive, humorous, and relaxed.

Areas for development include a tendency to be overly sensitive to others. You're intuitive and will interpret meaning behind everything. This also means that you can get distracted by reactions of other individual in the audience, and that can make you lose track. You may see team processes as an end to themselves and fail to challenge or contradict other team members. Make sure that you are well prepared for areas you are responsible for, and that you accommodate other members of the team by being sufficiently serious and aware of the bottom line.

Mostly C's – Organized Guardians

Organized Guardians are extremely **dependable and loyal**, and they play by the rules. They have an amazing work ethic, stay down-to-earth, and they like routine. They are thorough and orderly. At times they are too serious, but they are practically always serious. They are good at taking care of other people. They want to hear about the bottom line, and they want the facts.

Organized Guardians will consider charts and graphs and follow a well prepared presentation longer than most people, but they can shut down when too much emotion is presented and may get bored with stories. This temperament makes up **40 to 45% of the population** and includes people like Queen Elizabeth II, Mother Teresa, George Washington, and Colin Powell. With their respect for tradition, they are drawn to the military and policing. These are also the people who will pass traditions to their children and grandchildren.

To connect with Organized Guardians on your team, be concise, organized, and support statements with data. Present information in a logical sequence, and don't wander off down a tangent. Quote other experts. Expect, and encourage, them to collaborate.

If you are an Organized Guardian as a team member, you will be very logical and organized. You'll take notes, and you'll know how to find them. You're a big picture thinker, looking for the better way to do things. You can be persuasive, and you don't need to be tied down by excessive details. You see the vision, mission, and goals of the team as paramount. You are flexible to new ideas and willing to help out even in areas outside of your defined roles. You are willing to share in the limelight with the members of the team. You work hard to meet your objectives. People usually describe you as forward-thinking, cooperative, independent, flexible, and imaginative.

Your weaknesses can be predictability. The data will be there, but you may have to remind yourself (repeatedly) to give the group opportunities for self-discovery and application. Draw on your compassion for others to add emotional depth to your work and an appreciation of the strengths of others. Sometimes you may be tempted to publicly complain about team failures. Resist the urge! You may overlook the mission at times by being too future oriented, or lose sight of tasks. Resist the urge to dream, and get on with the doing.

Mostly D's – Resourceful Artisans

Resourceful Artisans **crave action and live in the moment.** They are very social, confident, and persuasive. Donald Trump, Steven Spielberg, and Madonna are notable Resourceful Artisans. They're witty, playful, and fun. If they had a message to share, it would be that the world could lighten up a little. Like Organized Guardians, they can also perceive the world concretely. They can get bored with visionary tasks. They enjoy stories that they can easily relate to and imagine happening to them. This temperament makes up about **35% of the population.**

To connect with Resourceful Artisans, be real and spontaneous. Engage them with questions and discussion. Be prepared for them to challenge your ideas, and at times, authority. They will play the devil's advocate and look for weak links in anyone's argument.

If you're Resourceful Artisan, your strengths include energy, personality, and creativity. Build in some interaction when you present your work to leverage your spontaneity. You are a natural storyteller, so tell some stories. You will encourage action, and you have good listening skills, so you are responsive to your team. While most people will appreciate your candor, it may take some practice before you know when to back off an issue. You will challenge the team to take well-considered risks and push them toward high ethical standards. People usually see you as candid, honest, principled, assertive, and ethical.

Your weaknesses can show up in your organization and structure. Because you are living in the moment, you might avoid the homework that goes into the development of a brilliant report or presentation. You might avoid preparation and be willing to rely on spontaneity, but then you are less focused on content. Be careful not to be so spontaneous that you miss a good opportunity to deliver a powerful message. You can be too direct in communicating with other team members, and sometimes become rigid and inflexible. Avoid painting yourself into a corner by knowing when to back off.

What's Important?

We all have preferences for how we do things, and now we hopefully understand a bit more about them. It's also important to remember that we ALL have the range of preferences described here. You might be mostly A, but call on behaviors that are more closely associated with B, C, and/or D as needed. You might

also be very close in your results to more than one type, so you'll find it easier than other people to flex your own style in response to what the group needs.

It's important to have a range of types in our workplace and on each team that we work with. The strength of having some people looking after facts and figures while others can appeal to emotions, spontaneity, or reinforce the importance of rules and tradition, makes our business effective. It's the blend, that presence of different temperaments with in a multitude of strengths, which keeps our world fascinating.

My Team Style

What are your individual strengths?

What are your individual weaknesses?

What are your team's strengths?

What are your team's weaknesses?

How can you shore up the weaknesses and leverage the strengths?

Building Team Trust

Why is Trust Important?

Trust is one of those mainstay virtues, and a hallmark of high performing teams. It is the bond that allows any kind of significant relationship to exist between people. Once broken, it is not easily, if ever, recovered.

Trust is produced in a climate that includes four elements:

- **Honesty:** Integrity, no lies, no exaggerations
- **Openness:** A willingness to share and receive information, perceptions, opinions, and ideas
- **Consistency:** Predictable behavior and responses
- Treating people with **dignity** and **fairness**

We can ask a team that is starting out to assume trust; to treat everyone as though they trust one another and to be trustworthy to each other. This is a reasonable way of sharing with the team that you are also putting your trust in them.

Just keep in mind that trust is fragile. If any one of the elements listed above is breached even once a relationship is apt to be severely compromised, even lost. With trust gone between individuals, teams have little hope of functioning well and realizing their true potential.

What happens when teams trust each other?

- They can focus on the issues at hand and get things done quickly and efficiently.
- Team members are more likely to take risks and share their thoughts and feelings.
- They can devote their energies to coming up with creative solutions and working together to solve problems.
- They experience a greater level of synergy.
- Team members often find that if they need help, others are more willing to pitch in.

Building Trust

Share a recent incident when someone (such as a parent, sibling, friend, or co-worker) violated your trust.

How did you respond?

Does the other person realize that they have lost your trust?

Brainstorm specific behaviors that tend to undermine your trust in others.

Knowing that these behaviors erode your trust in others, what will you do to help others trust you? Be specific.
