

ICEBREAKERS

Leadership, teambuilding, and communication are all key elements that lead to success. The two activities help students develop these skills and can be easily used at any local chapter meeting.



- **Mixing Bag.** This activity promotes both leadership skills and fun. To prepare for this activity, the FBLA leader will need 4-5 small bags with 5 unrelated objects placed in each bag (brush, soda can, pen, gloves, etc.). Break the class or group into teams of three or four. Hand each team a bag with 5 unrelated objects in it. Ask the teams to take about 15 minutes to take all of their props and make a short skit using each person and each prop. Then have each group present their skit in front of the class or the FBLA-PBL meeting. Offer an incentive like color pens, highlighters, bookmarkers, movie passes, etc. for the best skit.



- **The Web.** The FBLA leader will need a large ball of sturdy rope for this activity, which helps students get to know each other and the concept of community building. Gather into a circle. Explain that you will throw a ball of rope to someone else in the circle, but will hang on to the end of the rope. When you catch the rope, say your name and, in one or two sentences, one thing that you like about yourself. Then, hold onto the rope right next to the ball and throw the ball to another person in the circle until everyone has participated. The last person throws it back to the FBLA leader. Ask students to look at the rope design. Does it remind them of a map, a web, or a community? What happens to the design (our community), when everyone holds the rope up high, down low, pulls back and tightens the rope, walks together and loosens the rope, but not let go. Now ask one person to let go of the rope. Have that person pick up the rope. Next ask someone else to pull back tight on the rope. What happens to the design? Ask members, one at a time, to disrupt the web in some way, but without letting go of their rope. After each person has disrupted the web, and returned to their place, ask what is happening to the web. How does the group feel when one person really changes the web? If you are part of a team, or a community, what happens when someone puts tension on the group like walking away or not doing their part? To keep the web strong and secure, what do each of us need to do? To keep a team together or an FBLA-PBL chapter strong, what do we need to do? To unravel the web, have students say their name again and something the activity made you think about. Have students throw the ball to the person who threw it to them when they were making the web, but they should not hang on to any rope. Continue until the ball is returned to the FBLA-PBL officer.