Hats & Glasses

Created by Game Designers as an activity for the FIRST Robotics Competition at Home Challenge: Game Design Competition
The Activity:

Main Takeaways:
1) Understand the differences you see in your role versus your perspective
2) Communicate with teammates

Hats: Your Responsibilities
• What “roles” do you bring to the table?
  • Think about what roles you feel responsible to represent on your team.
  • What do you want people to “trust” you with when you wear this hat?
  • “Hats” are likely tied to your position on your team.
  • These are things you are responsible for on your team.

Glasses: Your Experiences
• What “perspectives” do you bring to the table?
  • Think about what perspectives (gained from experiences) you use to form your opinions.
  • These could be things that you feel passionately about but may not be ultimately responsible for on your team.

Sunglasses:
• What type of dynamics do you dislike?
The Hopeful Outcome

What do your teammates and mentors feel responsible for on your team?

What experiences and perspectives do your teammates and mentors bring to your team?

What types of dynamics do your teammates and mentors dislike?

A better understanding of your teammates & a better understanding of how to make your teammates feel valuable/heard.
1. Be honest with yourself
   • Hats & Glasses are not the same thing:
     • Hats – roles you are responsible for
     • Glasses – perspectives you have

2. Be thorough
   • Try to use this opportunity to explain your background to your teammates
   • Include at least 1 hat, 1 glasses, & 1 sunglasses
Ground Rules – Sharing Content Examples

1. Assume positive intent
2. Be open-minded
3. Trust that teammates have thought about the activity & their responses
4. Understand that people may have the same hat or glasses to you, but it doesn’t mean you will have the same opinion.
Examples of Hats and Glasses

**Hats Examples – roles on your team**
- Team Captain/President/CEO
- Lead Mentor
- Outreach Mentor
- Scout
- Award Submitter
- Electrical Team Member
- Programmer
- Spirit Captain

**Glasses Examples – life experiences**
- Work experiences
- Hobby experiences
- Education (including specific classes)
- Personal life (being a sibling, parent, spouse, etc.)

**Sunglasses Examples – dynamics you dislike**
- When people raise their voice
- When someone says they will do something, but they don’t do it
- When people are late
Kelly Carlson (student example)

**Hats: My Responsibilities**

- **Team Captain**
  - People can trust that I will do everything to make sure the team is successful
  - Ensure all members feel their contributions are valued
  - Work with mentors & other student leads to ensure our team is set up for success
- **Award Submitter/Lead & Chairman’s Presenter**
  - People can trust that I am aware of deadlines and award submission criteria
  - Ensure our team is educated and prepared to talk to judges
- **Outreach/Business/Fundraising Lead**
  - Work with mentors and teammates to set up outreach opportunities that focus on promoting FIRST/my team
  - Work with mentors and teammates to set up outreach fundraising opportunities of various scales to ensure our team is meeting our financial goals
  - Maintain the business plan
  - Act as the club liaison to showcase our team (TV production, yearbook, student council, etc)
- **Robot Builder**
  - Work with our build team lead to ensure our robot is complete and ready for competition

**Glasses: My Perspectives**

- **FRC experiences** – experiences include Drive Team member, wiring the robot, mechanical design for the robot, shop organization, public speaking, and roles listed above
- **Club liaison** – I work with multiple clubs to showcase our team (TV production, yearbook, student council, theater, dance team)
- **Female** – One of only a few females on the team
- **Event volunteer** – volunteer at FLL and FTC events, this allows me to make connections with people in other programs

**Sunglasses: Dynamic’s I Don’t Like**

- Don’t like saying “it’s always been like this” – I want to work to make my team better which might mean changing how things “have always been done”
Kelly Carlson (mentor example)

- **Hats: My Responsibilities**
  - **FLL Mentor (middle school age team members)**
    - Provide guidance on how to prioritize missions & understand programming logic
    - Assist with all aspects of the project
    - Ensure all students are safe, engaged, feel valued, and are learning new skills
  - **FTC Mentor (high school age team members)**
    - Provide guidance on strategy & mechanical elements of the robot
    - Assist with documentation & record keeping
    - Ensure all students are safe, engaged, feel valued, and are learning new skills
    - Ensure team is set up for success at events so I can focus on being an event volunteer
  - **FRC Mentor (high school age team members)**
    - Provide guidance on CAD, mechanical elements of the robot & field build
    - Provided non-technical guidance (spirit, creativity, awards)
    - Ensure all students are safe, engaged, feel valued, and are learning new skills

- **Glasses: My Perspectives**
  - **FRC alumni** (2011 – 2014) – roles included Drive Team, Team Captain, Mechanical Build, Awards, Fundraising/Business Lead, Outreach Lead
  - **FRC, FLL, and FTC Mentor** – mentored multiple FIRST teams in all of the programs
  - **FTA/Field Reset/Game Announcer/Master of Ceremonies** – experience in these roles have given me an understanding of the “behind the scenes” of events
  - **FRC Scholarship Recipient** – I understand how important this program is for kids who are using it to get long-term opportunities
  - **WPI alumni** – Mechanical Engineering college degree
  - **Multiple Work/Club Experiences** – I have worked at multiple companies and have been part of multiple student organizations, so I have seen various types of organizational structures and have good examples of what does/doesn’t work.
  - **Female** – Female in engineering has made me think about being the “odd one out”. This perspective helps me think about diversity & inclusion, and the importance of being a role model to students.

- **Sunglasses: Dynamic’s I Don’t Like**
  - **Don’t like when plans aren’t communicated** – I like to know the plan (meeting days/times/expectations) so I can be as helpful to the team(s) as possible
**Hats: My Responsibilities**

- **Mechanical Engineering “Subject Matter Expert”**
  - People can trust my engineering knowledge and knowledge of design feasibility
  - Advocate for Mechanical Engineering Team – specifically feasibility, cost, ease of assembly, assembly robustness

- **Field-Build Teacher, FTA Teacher, Field Supervisor Support, Event Support**
  - People can trust that I am thinking about “how are we going to teach volunteers about X”
  - People can trust that if I say it should be okay for volunteers it’s because I know I am one of the people responsible for making it okay
  - People can trust that if something fails during the season, I will work to find a solution to fix the issue

- **Game Design Committee Lead**
  - People can trust I am thinking of the full game design process (from concept through Einstein)
  - People can trust that I am thinking about how this game gets discussed with other departments (marketing, Frank, game animation, etc.)

**Glasses: My Perspectives**

- **FRC alumni** (2011 – 2014) – roles included Drive Team, Team Captain, Mechanical Build, Awards, Fundraising/Business Lead, Outreach Lead
- **FRC Scholarship Recipient** – I understand how important this program is for kids who are using it to get long-term opportunities
- **WPI alumni** – College education was largely project based. I was very involved on campus and gained a lot of leadership and marketing skills. I have a mechanical engineering/mechanical design degree.
- **Creative Work Experience** – I have creative work experience from working at Disney Imagineering. I tend to think “let’s not say no until it’s proven impossible”. I’ve done a bit of work with compromising creative vs. physics to find innovative solutions
- **Female** – Female in engineering has made me think about being the “odd one out”. This perspective helps me think about diversity & inclusion
- **FRC, FLL, and FTC Mentor** – mentored while in high school (FLL/FTC) teams with very small budgets & had no prior knowledge of FTC/FLL. Mentored after college a team in Florida (Mechanical). Mentor my old team remotely (and occasionally in person) with field builds, scholarships, and awards.
- **FTA/Field Reset** – experience in these roles and working on training material for roles
- **Planner** – I thrive on having plans/long term goals/timelines

**Sunglasses: Dynamic’s I Don’t Like**

- Don’t like when things get “loud” – my communication style is to shut down when people get loud