

“Behind Your Back” Career Activity

1. Break the group up into small groups of 5-6.
2. Pick out a one member in each group and tell them they are to go first.
3. Give the group the following instructions:

When it is your turn...

Turn your back to the group. Have a pen and paper. Write down everything the group says about you. You may not comment on anything. Be silent—your job is to just listen and take notes even if you don't agree.

When you are in the group...

Comment on the person whose back is turned. Say positive things. It's ok to be shallow and comment on their cool clothing and hair, but try to report to them about things you have liked about them during your interactions, such as “You're a great listener” or “You've made me think about things differently.”

Ideally, try to give this person ideas about qualities and skills they possess as well as potential careers. Things like “You'd be great with children” or “I can see you as a web designer.”

If you get any ideas about careers they might be happy in or good at—tell them! If you were a casting agent in Hollywood, what career would you cast them in? Encourage them!

Logistics:

Each person receives comments for 2 minutes, then go to the next person (each group should appoint a timer).

When all the groups are done, open up to the big group and ask for comments. Encourage students to visit the career center to explore how these notes can be turned in to potential careers.