**Chapter 2: Defining Team Success**

**Class Activities**

**Activity 1: Are Teams Appropriate?**

Objective: To understand when it is appropriate to utilize teams versus individuals to perform various tasks.

Activity: Individually, think of 10 tasks that you perform frequently, making sure you include tasks you do at home as well as in other settings such as work or school. Then decide whether the task would be better performed by an individual or as a team. After everyone has their lists, get into small teams (3-4) and share your lists with each other.

Discussion: How much agreement did you have in your decision to have tasks be individual or team-based? For tasks that are determined to be better performed as a team (or individually) what are the characteristics they have in common?

**Activity 2: Benefit and Problems with Teamwork**

Objective: To engage students in a debate in order to compare the benefits and problems with teamwork.

Activity: Ask students to pick one of two sides: 1) that teamwork is more beneficial for organizations or 2) that teamwork is more problematic than beneficial for organizations. Students should be asked to select a side and not straddle the fence. Once the class is divided into two sides, engage students in a debate to argue for their side.

**Activity 3: Characteristics of Successful Teams**

Objective: To understand the characteristics of successful teams by various researchers (Hackman, Levi & Slem, Larson & LaFasto, and Katzenbach & Smith) in Levi, Table 2.2

Activity: Form small teams so there are a total of at least four teams in the class. Each team should be assigned one of the above researchers. They are then to explain to the class what the characteristics are which are endorsed by their assigned researcher(s). The team should also argue why this perspective is better than the others. This could be structured as a debate.

**Activity 4: Teams as a Fad**

Objective: To realize the prevalent use of teams in current organizations.

Activity: Require students search the internet for a list of organizations (i.e., workplaces) that utilize teams. Have students then share this information in class in order to discuss this trend.