BACK TO THE FUTURE: USING AN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE TO DEMONSTRATE TEAMBUILDING INITIATIVES IN AN MBA CLASS

William C. Sharbrough
The Citadel
sharbroughw@citadel.edu

ABSTRACT

As part of an MBA class in teambuilding and leading teams, the author has developed a unique, weekend-long teambuilding workshop that fits with the military tradition of the institution. The workshop involves students in a variety of exercises that illustrate pooled, sequential, and reciprocal interdependence among teams as well as implicit ways to develop trust and open communication among team members. The workshop combines aspects of "The Great Race" and "Apprentice" reality TV programs into a combat game with an historical perspective peculiar to the location and history of the college. It serves as both a teambuilding exercise and a way to stimulate ideas for initiatives participants might develop for teambuilding in their workplaces.