



VENTURING · BSA

## Synergism Module 2 – Venturing on the Moon

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**Learning Objectives**      At the end of this session, each participant should be able to:

- Recognize that problem solving is more effective in a group setting than individually
- Understand the process and importance of gaining consensus in a group

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**Materials Needed**      A copy of the Venturing on the Moon handout (see appendix M) and a pen for each individual

Appendix N, Experts Rankings, for the instructor only

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**Activity**      Distribute a copy of the Venturing on the Moon handout to each participant.

Read carefully the introductory paragraph on the handout. Be sure each person understands the process.

Allow five minutes for each individual to complete the “Individual Ranking” column of the handout. They are not to discuss the problem with anyone else at this stage.

After each individual has completed filling out the 15 lines on the “Individual Ranking” column, divide the group into teams of four to seven people. Appoint a spokesperson to report when completed.

Tell each team that it is to discuss the individual rankings of each member of the team and come up with a group consensus ranking (the second column on the handout).

In the group setting, the rules are as follows:

- Everyone in the team must agree with the choice.
- Do not change your individual answers during the group discussion.
- No voting or compromising is allowed.
- The final decision must be acceptable to everyone and a decision must be reached within 20 minutes.
- The spokesperson of the group must be able to give reasons for the inclusion and exclusion of the various items.

During the exercise, walk around and observe the group dynamics of each group. This will help you formulate questions to ask during reflection.

After the time has expired, ask each team spokesperson to give the group consensus.

At the completion of all group reports, share with the entire group the Expert's Rankings (see appendix N). Of course the Expert's Ranking sheet should be kept hidden until this time.

Compare with the entire group the differences between the expert vs. Individual rankings and the expert vs. group rankings. Add up the differences numerically between the columns.

In most cases you will find that the numerical gap between the individual vs. expert rankings is greater than the gap between the group vs. expert rankings. In other words, the combined efforts of the group are more closely aligned with the expert's than an individual's.

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**Reflection**

Ask: Was it difficult to gain a consensus in the group?  
Do you see the importance of a leader working for consensus and teamwork in problem-solving situations?

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**End of Session**