

MATES Junior Activity Resource Guide

Goal: **Communication Skills**

Activity Type: 3+ mentees
Relationship Stage: Any

Activity Name:

"Lights, Camera, Action!"

Objective:

Practice speaking aloud, both impromptu and to a script

Preparation Time:

None

Activity Duration:

30-45 minutes for each commercial

Required Material:

- Bag of things that could be used as the object of the commercial (e.g., food, sports equipment, toy, household items, or personal grooming products)
- Paper and pens/pencils for writing up the scripted commercial
- Camera for filming

Instructions:

- Have a brief discussion about commercials and the kinds of things they like/dislike/remember about commercials.
- Ask to group to choose three items they would like to create a commercial for.
- Start with impromptu commercials. Ask each mentee in the group to take 30 seconds to show the others how they would advertise the product, making something up off the top of their head. They should try not to repeat other people's ideas if possible. Repeat for each of the three products they chose, allowing different mentees to go first each time.
- After the impromptu commercials, the mentees should choose one product which they would like to write and perform a commercial for. The only rule is that each person must speak from the script at least once in the commercial.
- Once they have written a script, the mentees should act out the commercial using whatever props, costumes, or music they like (they can use other products as props if useful).
- Film the commercial!

Further Notes:

- This is a fun-spirited activity to encourage mentees to be creative, silly, and performative in speaking aloud. It also encourages them to speak with their eyes to camera (or audience), rather than looking down at the floor.
- You may wish to share the commercial with the rest of the mentoring group for some positive feedback for the mentees.