

OSOT Activity: Getting on the Same Page Vision Activity for VISTA Supervisors & Members

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Purpose:

- To have the Supervisor and VISTA reach clarity together about the vision which is the context for the VISTA member's VAD work and her/his role in achieving the vision
- To help VISTA practice early on with the messaging of that vision, their VAD and their role
- To strengthen bond between Supervisor and VISTA during OSOT

Timing: Approximately 75-90 minutes.

Materials: blank paper and colored markers

Activity Steps:

1. At OSOT, have VISTA member and supervisors pair up.
2. Distribute a blank sheet and markers to both VISTA Member and direct supervisor.
3. Ask the Supervisor to discuss the vision (dream piece, changed, improved condition as a result of the service).
4. DRAWING #1: task the Supervisor and VISTA member to collaborate together on a visual (graphic) representation of that vision. (10 minutes)
5. DRAWING #2: Now, ask the VISTA member to use a second blank paper to draw what she/he currently understands to be the major focus of his/her VAD tied to that vision. Once completed, the VISTA uses the drawing to explain to their Supervisor his/her understanding of the VAD. (10 minutes)
6. The Supervisor then takes this opportunity to clarify, reinforce, and/or possibly refine or correct the VISTAs understanding about his/her VAD and role in helping to achieve the vision through reviewing the VAD drawing.
7. Once understanding has been reached, VISTA takes DRAWING #1 and connects his/her role and VAD to DRAWING #1 either by adding to that picture or connecting the two pictures. Then, Supervisor and VISTA together take a few moments to craft an 'elevator' speech that could be shared with a community partner about the VISTAs role in the community using the drawings to tell the story in 3-4 minutes.

MESSAGING PRACTICE:

1. PRACTICE #1: VISTA & Supervisor pair up with another VISTA & Supervisor pair. Each VISTA then in turn has a chance to practice sharing their 'elevator speech'. Once done, the original VISTA & Supervisor pair huddle and the Supervisor gives the VISTA feedback on the presentation making sure to emphasize the strengths and to fine tune the accuracy of the comments.
2. PRACTICE #2: VISTA & Supervisor pair up with a second pair of VISTA & Supervisor. Again, each VISTA in turn has a chance to practice sharing their 'elevator speech' with the supervisor listening on. Once completed, together the pairs talk about what was strong about each presentation.