The Importance of this Topic
Through the use of team building activities and real-life scenarios the leaders will gain an understanding of the importance of group work and to help prepare the leaders for their initial workshop session. The module introduces them to Vygotsky’s theory of intelligence/development and concept mapping, which are important underpinnings of the PLTL model.

Putting Theory into Practice
It is imperative that the leaders understand the importance of working in groups. Their understanding will allow them to facilitate a healthy, productive workshop group. Their understanding of Vygotsky’s theory can help them group students according to the students’ ability levels.

Concept mapping is an important tool that the leaders will be able to utilize throughout the semester. The concept maps help the student build and visualize the connections between what they know and what they have learned.

What the Leaders Will Gain From This Module:
- Understanding the importance of ice breakers
- Increased confidence in their abilities to get PLTL groups working together
- Understanding Vygotsky’s theory and importance of group work
- How to connect what they learned in the training module to solving PLTL Chemistry workshop problems
- How to respond to possible first-day scenarios
- How to create a concept map and how to relate concept mapping to PLTL
Outline Of LT-Module Activities and Expected Outcomes

Survival Game

This game requires the leaders to create individual lists of the most important things needed for survival on a deserted island. The leaders are then required to combine their ideas into one top list.

Outcome
Ideally each leader will find that the final top list contained items they generally agree on being essential to survival but may not have thought of it on their own, thus learning the effectiveness of group work.

Objective
Working in groups to discover ideas that may not have been discovered alone.

Possible Discussion Questions for Weekly PLTL meeting

- During the survival game what items were mentioned that surprised you the most?
- What methods did you use to create your final list in the survival game?
- Give a brief summary of what you gained from this module.
Chemistry Problem

Suppose that you are faced with a problem similar to the one faced by Robert Millikan when he analyzed data from his oil drop experiment. Below are the masses of three stacks of dimes. What do you conclude to be the mass of a dime, and what is your argument?

Stack 1 = 9.12g  stack 2 = 15.96g  stack 3 = 27.36g

Outcome
The chemistry problem will allow the students to use the concepts they learned through playing the survival game.

Objective
The problem will allow the leaders to view how the group-work concepts can be utilized through chemistry problems in workshop.

Possible Discussion Questions for Weekly PLTL meeting
- In which ways does the chemistry problem connect you back to the survival game?
- Were you able to agree on a solution?
- How can you use this method of group work to help struggling students?
Scenarios

- Jeff, an experienced leader does not understand why he should work through the training modules.
- Workshop students who do not understand the importance of ice breakers.
- A student who does not understand the importance of group work.
- A leader writes the answers on the board.

Outcome
The leaders will be able to discuss strategies and solutions to solving the scenarios.

Objective
Through discussion the leaders will learn how to handle certain situations that may arise during workshop.

Possible Discussion Questions for Weekly PLTL meeting

- Summarize the scenario your group chose to discuss.
- How did your group decide to respond to the scenario?
Concept Mapping

The students were asked to draw a concept map connecting all the concepts and theories they have discovered concerning PLTL.

Outcome
Each group will have a unique, though possibly similar, idea as to how to create concept maps and which concepts can relate and are important to PLTL.

Objective
Concept maps are useful tools for reviewing and consolidating ideas. They can be a fun way to help students understand how certain concepts are connected.

Possible Discussion Questions for Weekly PLTL meeting
- Have each group share/explain their concept map
Leader/Faculty Meeting Outline

1. **Hand out sign-in sheet**
2. **Questions to ask to open up discussion (20 min)**
   - **Survival Game**
     - What methods did you use to create your final list in the survival game?
   - **Chemistry Problem**
     - In which ways does the chemistry problem connect you back to the survival game?
   - **Scenarios**
     - What scenario did your group chose to discuss?
     - How did your group decide to respond to the scenario that you chose?
   - **Concept Mapping**
     - Have each group share/explain their concept map.
     - What was the most important thing you learned from this module?
3. **Points to emphasize**
   - Leaders should have all group members’ emails.
   - Leaders should avoid standing in front of the group as well as writing on the board.
4. **Have the leaders work on the workshops (30 min)**

References

  http://coe.sdsu.edu/eet/articles/vygotsky_zpd/;