



EMPLOYEE ACTIVITY

Co[la]bo[ra]t[ion]

OBJECTIVE

After learning about the advantages of cobots, students will brainstorm where cobots could be useful in their community and they will create a job posting that outlines the role that cobots could play.

MATERIALS

- *What Cobots Can Do for Your Business* [infographic](#), one per student
- Community Cobot handout (2 pages), one per student

ENGAGE

- Write the word “robot” on the board or chart paper in large letters. Then ask a few students at a time to add words, phrases, or pictures that come to mind when they see this word. Encourage every student to record at least one thought.
- Replace the “r” in “robot” with a “c” to make “cobot.” Ask students to discuss: What comes to mind when you see this word?
- Underline the “co” in robot and explain that a cobot is a collaborative robot. The prefix “co” means joint, jointly, or together.

EXPLORE

- Distribute one infographic to each student. Explain that the infographic will help students better understand the concept of cobots. Instruct them to quietly read through the infographic once and give you a thumbs up when they are done.
- Take a moment to bring students' attention to the section of the infographic that states: *Cobots and workers team up for: Accuracy, Flexibility, Speed, Strength*. Reiterate that as the “co” in “cobot” implies, these robots do not replace humans in the workplace. Rather, they help humans do their job even better!
- Then split the class into groups of three or four. Assign one of the following categories to each group, and instruct them to use the infographic to discuss how cobots could be used most effectively in their assigned area. More than one group may be assigned the same category.

Categories:

- Manufacturing plant or factory
 - Warehouse fulfillment center
 - Restaurant
 - Farm
 - Large retail store (grocery, home improvement, etc.)
- To wrap up, encourage a representative from each group to briefly share what they discussed.

APPLY

- Now that students have an understanding of how robots and cobots can collaborate, challenge them to more thoroughly outline a task in their community that cobots and humans could perform together.
- Distribute one Community Cobot handout to each student and review the directions. Challenge students to think outside the box and consider areas in their community where cobots may not traditionally be found but where they may be able to help and make a difference! Then encourage students to work in their small groups to complete the handout's three steps.
- When there are five minutes left in the class session, bring the groups back together and ask each one to share the job that they selected as well as the job overview section of their posting.
- Conclude the session by summarizing the many different areas where the class thought cobots could be beneficial in their community. Explain that as organizations become more and more aware of cobots' advantages, their presence and impact will only continue to grow!

Directions: Follow the steps below to determine *where* and *how* cobots could benefit your community. Then create a job posting designed to help this organization, company, or community group find the ideal cobot.

Step 1: Review cobots' main skills and advantages, and jot them below:

Step 2: Brainstorm: Based on these skills, *where* in your community would cobots be useful? Be specific.

Step 3: Select one location in your community where you believe cobots could do the most good. Then imagine: If an organization, community group, or company created a job posting in search of this cobot, what would it say? Fill in the blanks on the following page.

Company/Organization/Group: _____

Job Title: _____

Reports to: _____

(Who would be the cobot's boss?)

Works with: _____

Job Overview:

(About three sentences generally describing what the cobot will do and how they will help the organization and the overall community.)

Main Responsibilities and Duties:

(Bullets: What *exactly* will the cobot do?)

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Physical abilities:

(Will any specific physical capabilities be required?)

Additional information:

(Is there any other information that the cobot should know?)
