

Valuing in Decision Making

Fun Challenges: #AbilitiesInAction



Valuing in Decision Making

Engage moral issues by understanding the many dimensions of personal decisions and taking responsibility for choices.

#AbilitiesInAction: Challenge yourself, fellow students, faculty and staff, friends and neighbors to engage in one or more of the following ability challenges! Feel free to initiate a challenge, create teams or find a partner. The purpose is to dive in and experience this ability in action. Document and share using #AbilitiesInAction!

#AbilitiesInAction Challenges:

- Write your personal mission statement.
- Ask yourself: What is your “Why?” Why do you do what you do? What motivates you to succeed and what values are attributed to your motivations?
- Analyze the ethics of sharing food — examine cultural differences and social norms and values.
- Investigate the ethics of social media stalking in today’s digital age.
- Ponder the ethics of social media activism.
- What is the morality of cancel culture? Examine the cultural and societal factors.
- What are the ethics of artificial intelligence and advancing tech in today’s world?
- Discuss holiday traditions and values that underline them.
- How do values impact health decisions?
- Analyze how your values impact your career pathway decision.
- What are your values in relationships?
- Examine your values in terms of your fashion choices.
- What values do you consider when choosing where and how to travel?
- What values affect your gift-giving decisions?
- Think about your sustainability efforts in terms of your environmental, social and economic views.
- Discuss ethical risk — open forum, small groups, themes, question of the week.
- Play Monopoly, but change the social structure. (socialist, industrial, cheaters, etc.)
- When making a big decision, ask for input from a team member, friend or neighbor.

In each of these examples, challenge yourself to analyze valuing as part of the decision-making process, and how your decisions align with personal beliefs and priorities. Remain thoughtful, lighthearted, fun and impactful based on the spectrum of serious to fun considerations.

Effective Citizenship

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Effective Citizenship

Make informed choices and develop strategies for collaborative involvement in community issues.

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#AbilitiesInAction Challenges:

- Organize a community cleanup event. (small or large!)
- Offer to cut a neighbor's lawn, shovel a walk or help with yardwork.
- Is there an organization or cause that could benefit from the gift of your time?
- Volunteer at a local non-profit with a group or as an individual.
- Gather a team or be a participant in a charity run/walk. Organize an Alverno Homecoming Walk to benefit a local charity!
- Voting: register, set up a "practice" voting/polling opportunity on campus to get into the practice of voting. Create change by encouraging others to vote!
- Perform random acts of kindness to make a positive impact on your community.
 - Leave kind notes for neighbors.
 - Pay for someone's coffee behind you in line.
- Babysit for a classmate for free.
- Organize a potluck! It could be for a floor or departments. Invite students!
- Create a flash mob — a fun and creative way to bring attention to important issues.
- Have a clothing swap party — exchange items or donate to Goodwill or Career Studio.
- Host a game night fundraiser — invite friends to play games and charge donation fee to participate.
- Participate in a peaceful protest — a powerful way to voice opinions.
- Support local businesses with friends by creating positive posts on social media.
- Donate to charity.
- Offer to mentor or tutor young people to make a difference in their lives.
- Participate in a sponsored event at Alverno — volunteer to assist with set-up and activities.
- Food sort at local food bank or Hunger Task Force.
- Create a workshop on how to contact elected officials, run for office or serve on boards.
- Election year — create an area dedicated to education about candidates, voting info, etc.
- Volunteer for activity events at a retirement community.
- Create fall or spring term recognition event focusing on "Random Acts of Kindness."

Social Interaction

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Social Interaction

Communicate interpersonally to effectively accomplish a task, build relationships, deepen understanding, develop others, manage conflict and reach a decision.

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#AbilitiesInAction Challenges:

- Host storytelling in the Commons.
- Have a zip code lunch or party for staff and faculty.
- Create a campus scavenger hunt.
 - Utilize social media (can you find...?)
- Host speed networking with a mix of faculty, staff and students. Create a theme!
- Create an Alverno escape room challenge.
- Have a campus olympics event.
 - Incorporate faculty, staff and students.
 - Create events that are knowledge, skill or goofy activity based.
- Host a trivia event at lunch time.
- Participate in an Alverno talent show for faculty, staff and students. Maybe a Talent Show Tuesday with an open mic?
- Create a campus-wide potluck or cultural exchange.
- Common connection: stage tables in the Commons for faculty, staff and students to sit based on common interests ("I love dogs" table, "I love pizza" table). Set a time and day.
- Create a walking club, book club or lunch club.
- Facilitate Employee Resource Groups — attend, create and engage. Encourage monthly meetings and invitations.
- Submit your profile for the Experts Page or to be featured on social media. Schedule your photo with Marketing in FO 232.
- Create hobby time in the Commons to learn something new. (crochet, knit, paint, etc.)
- Jigsaw puzzles in the commons — anyone can hop in to help put it together!
- Host a community block party — create a committee and plan for spring '23 or fall '24.
- Attend a Milwaukee community event with a friend.

Problem Solving

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Problem Solving

Define problems and integrate resources to reach decision, make recommendations or implement action plans.

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#AbilitiesInAction Challenges:

- Create a “Six Thinking Hat” problem solving team.
 - The “Six Thinking Hats” is a problem-solving technique developed by Edward de Bono that involves assigning different roles or perspectives to each member of a problem-solving team. Each person takes on a different “hat” to approach the problem from different angles. See more information here: <https://www.mindtools.com/ajlpp1e/six-thinking-hats>
- Solve problems anonymously submitted via problem box or online submission.
- Create gamification activities with rewards and challenges.
- Write a letter to yourself as if you already solved a problem you have.
- Host a puzzle night — turn Alverno student artwork into a puzzle.
- Create mini conflict resolution sessions.
- Host a Five Minutes/Five Problems solutions free for all.
- Create a silent scavenger hunt to solve a problem.
- Host a game night for puzzle games like Sudoku or Crossword.
- Create ability-themed crossword puzzles.
- Develop a Jeopardy game using a template online.
- Create a problem-solving bingo game.
- Host an art heist — a virtual sleuthing game for team play
 - <https://book.teambuilding.com/bookings/new?event=art-heist-the-vanishing-van-gogh>
- Create an online escape room.
- Create treasure hunts. <https://teambuilding.com/blog/scavenger-hunt-apps>
- Combine abilities with moral challenges: ethical vs. factual challenges.
- Create a Hackathon! Participants have a set time to design and pitch a new product or solution (such as a new cafeteria food item).
- Have a spaghetti tower building contest (need uncooked spaghetti and mini marshmallows).
- Host a problem-solving challenge: “What would you do?” challenge of the week
- Team building problem-solving site: <https://teambuilding.com/blog/problem-solving-games>

Developing a Global Perspective

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Developing a Global Perspective

Understand, articulate and engage with the multilayered political, biological and cultural systems that shape issues of global dimensions.

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#AbilitiesInAction Challenges:

- Create a food passport: cook and eat different types of foods, whether ethnic or foods you've never tried, or try a meal at a restaurant you've never been to.
- Create a student collaborative culture event in the commons to represent your culture and things to know from food, dance, music, etc.
- Host an international potluck.
- Have a cultural show and tell.
- Create an international music jam or poetry slam.
- Develop a cultural crafts workshop.
- Start a global pen pal program and share letters.
- Have a language exchange with words of the day (posters in the commons)
 - "How do you say...?"
- Provide culture insights on greetings and conversation insights.
- Host an international game night, cultural trivia (Jeopardy) or international sports night. (cricket, bocce, etc.)
- Have an international dance party.
- Participate in a cultural movie night or film festival.
- Host an international fashion show.
- Study a "culture a week." Note what you learned, compare likenesses/differences, create a poster for display in the Commons or near Main Street map!
- Look at the history of different cultures and how they communicate, thrive and make decisions.
- Travel abroad for education.
- Become an Alverno Ambassador — check in with Marketing and Communications to set up the opportunity.
- Take a tour of the Mother House Chapel.
- Attend the International Student Culture Days.
- Study different body languages from around the world.
- What does "Alverno" look like in different languages?

Communication

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Communication

Create meaning by connecting people, ideas and information.

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#AbilitiesInAction Challenges:

- Tell stories through emojis.
- What does “Alverno” look like in binary, braille or ASL?
- Try one-word story telling — use posters, index cards or Mad-Libs.
- Have a debate on Alverno topics or fun topics, such as:
 - 8 Abilities — What could be #9?
 - Which ability should change?
 - Letter grades or no letter grades?
 - Ketchup or mustard on a hotdog?
 - Is a hotdog a sandwich?
- Have a movie, book or art critique or feedback session.
- Host “Improv in the Commons.” (comedy, speeches, poems etc.)
- Sensory loss role play (sight, sound, speech) — sightless for a day, nonverbal for a day, etc.
- Have a non-verbal scavenger hunt.
- Participate in team drawing — one person draws while one explains what to draw.
- Host speed networking.
- Communication networking: use different types of communication to discuss a topic (i.e. topic gets chosen, use emojis to describe feelings about topic).
- Participate in an Alverno-X type talk competition.
- Learn a new language.
- Have a no-email day.
- Have a no-device day, week or month — no texting, must call! Or, use your words/voice day — challenge yourself not to text but to directly speak face-to-face or via phone to people. How many days can you go?
- Quantitative literacy: numeracy; learn how to interpret, create and communicate.

Analysis

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Analysis

Critical, independent thinking that uses data, experience, reason and expertise to form carefully considered judgements.

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#AbilitiesInAction Challenges:

- Advertising campaigns — analyze effectiveness, strategies and techniques used to persuade.
- Analyze TV or movie themes, characters and storylines.
- Social media trends — analyze current trends or viral challenges and the impact on society and culture. (poster sessions on different platforms)
- Book club book analysis.
- Cultural traditions — analyze cultural traditions and practices; examine origins and significance.
- Scientific research — methods and results.
- Historical events — examine perspectives and impact of events on society and culture.
- Debate in the Commons — Speed Debating.
- Real-world challenge — develop and analyze a solution.
- Image analysis challenge via campus TVs.
- Puzzle challenges in the Commons.
- “Analysis paralysis” simulation challenge. (how to overcome)
- Treasure hunt — analysis required.
- Analyze why a pop tune is fun to listen to.

Aesthetic Engagement

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Aesthetic Engagement

Integrate the intuitive dimensions of participation in the arts with broader social, cultural and theoretical frameworks.

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#AbilitiesInAction Challenges:

- Create a collaborative art project creation.
- Host a teach-and-learn about art interpretation.
- Bring together a committee to work on bringing Wisconsin regional and local bands to Alverno.
- Have an infographic design challenge — could use Alverno concepts such as the 8 Abilities or programs.
- Create sensory challenges — texture, fragrance, taste or sound.
- Use your creative writing skills to submit an article about the abilities to the AlverKNOW.
- Host a photo scavenger hunt using social media.
- Have a poetry writing challenge with weekly themes.
- Take a mindful campus walk — focus on architecture, art, how it fits or the creation of the art
- Have a music appreciation challenge in the Commons — improv music at lunch.
- Participate in a student and alum art showcase in the Commons.
- Reach out to local florists or gardeners for flower bulb donations to plant in Alverno flower beds.
- Create art in non-art disciplines: art in math for example.
- Host art challenges in the Commons: challenge themes (free hand), display interpretation.
- Create a song for each ability (like Schoolhouse Rock!) or one for all.
- Have a furniture-painting fundraiser — upcycle old furniture (tables/chairs). Teams or individuals can paint and auction off to the community.
- Select student art pieces to be turned into puzzles for sale or fundraiser.
- Decorate a dorm room — create a contest to raffle off a decorated dorm room for a fall '24 student.
- Design the next Community Day t-shirt.
- Alverno's Got Talent! Create and plan a performance event.