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[FCS FLASH ISSUE 74: October 23, 2007](#)

October 26: San Francisco: Green Fashion Event: [Read More](#)

November 4-7: Los Angeles: [California Consumer Affairs Association 33rd Annual Conference](#)

November 7-10: Los Angeles: [ITAA Annual Meeting](#)

November 16-20: San Francisco: [GSA Annual Conference](#)

December 13-15: Las Vegas: [ACTE Convention & Career Expo](#)

February 29: Downey: ID Student Career Day: with the [Lighting Chef](#): Save the Date

March 27-30: Washington DC: [NCOA-ASA 2008 Joint Conference](#)

April 3-6: Long Beach: [CAEYC Conference](#) 2008: Save the Date

April 9-12: San Diego: ACTE Region V Meeting: Save the Date

April 19: Los Angeles: [2008 Fashion Symposium](#)

June 19-22: Milwaukee: [AAFCSA 99th Annual Conference](#)

October 2008: Germany: IKA'S European Culinary Trip: [Read More](#)

October 2008: Germany and Florence: Coast Community College District Culinary Olympics Trip: [Read More](#)

FCS Fantastic Information: Read a compelling account of how our memories work in [Remember This](#). If you want to learn more about an Art Museum Program for Alzheimer's Patients, follow this [link](#). Check out a new grant opportunity, [\\$3.2](#) million, from The American Association of Community Colleges to increase educational opportunities for the 50 plus population. Innovative and inspiring ...the 2007 report on [Masters of Design](#). For those in [fashion](#), look at the increased demand in the girl's plus sized apparel market. Finally, for more on educating the digital generation, don't miss this [YouTube](#) video clip.

FCS Activity: Help Students Deal with Workplace Gossip

Gossip in the workplace is a growing problem and companies have started taking drastic measures to reduce this destructive and divisive form of communication. You may remember that Hooksett, New Hampshire became the *talk of the town* last spring, when [four women were fired for workplace gossip](#). While many employees were stunned at these firings, free speech rights only go so far in the workplace. While gossiping at work may seem harmless, it is considered by some as a form of [workplace violence](#). Your students may not be aware of how participating in workplace gossip could damage their chances for success. This activity will give you an opportunity to discuss the problems gossip can cause.



Share this one minute video clip on [Office Gossip](#) and ask students to comment.

Ask several questions about gossip in their workplace and how it impacts productivity. *How much time is wasted in gossiping? How does gossip impact the environment? Why do people gossip?*

Explain that gossip spreads rapidly and that when one person tells two others and an hour later those two tell two more...within 15 hours a rumor can spread to some 16,000 people.

Have students **play "Rumor."**

- Divide class into teams of 8-10 students-all teams must have equal number of participants.
- Have teams line up one behind the other.
- Allow the first person from each team to go out of the room and together make up a single rumor to spread.
- Give the written rumor to the instructor.
- Once signaled the first person on each team is to whisper the "rumor" to the next person on their team.
- They in turn will whisper the "rumor" to the next person – and so on.
- The last person on each team to receive the rumor will write it down and give it to the instructor.
- The team that records the rumor closest to the original message in the shortest amount of time wins.

Ask several questions about the game and what happened in the process of sharing the gossip. *How did the message change? How fast do rumors spread?*

Ask students to **share** some of the things they do to [avoid participating in workplace gossip](#).

FYI: *Who gossips with you will gossip of you.* Irish Saying

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REPUTATION QUOTATIONS

In today's workplace you can expect to average up to 20 jobs in your lifetime. While there is little permanence in this new economy, the permanence in your career will rest on the reputation you build for yourself. You begin to build your reputation on the first day on the job. It develops with every phone call you make, with every ally you support, and with every negotiation you manage. Every exchange you have at work says something about you. All of your actions become part of your reputation.

How do you go about building a great reputation? Review the list of quotes below. **Choose** the one piece of advice that you think will help you build a great reputation. **Explain** your choice. List several **actions** you would take to show you followed this advice.

1. *You can't build a reputation on what you are going to do.* Henry Ford
2. *It takes many good deeds to build a good reputation, and only one bad one to lose it.* Ben Franklin
3. *A reputation for a thousand years may depend upon the conduct of a single moment.* Ernest Bramah
4. *A good name is better than bags of gold.* Cervantes
5. *Associate yourself with men of good quality if you esteem your own REPUTATION.* George Washington
6. *Skillful pilots gain their REPUTATION from storms and tempests.* Epictetus
7. *Nobody raises his own reputation by lowering others.* Unknown Source
8. *A man can get a reputation from very small things.* Sophocles

Circle the three pieces of advice that you think are the most important.

Choose one quote and **explain** in your own words what it means to you.

Based on the quote you chose, write down **two or three behaviors** that would show you followed this advice.
