

JA Success Skills™

Program for students from Grades VII through XII, in India

Introduction

About Junior Achievement Worldwide

JA Worldwide™ (Junior Achievement) is the world's largest organization dedicated to educating students about work readiness, financial literacy and entrepreneurship, through experiential, hands-on programs. The organization is dedicated to inspiring and preparing young people to succeed in a global economy. Since its founding in 1919, JA has contributed to the business and economic education of 79 million young people around the world.

JA Worldwide reaches to approximately 7.5 million students per year in 305,000 classrooms and after-school locations. JA programs are taught by volunteers in more than 115 countries around the world. Some of the world's best known organizations support JA Worldwide. Examples include Accenture, Citibank, Deloitte, Dell, ExxonMobil, GE International, Genpact, Hewitt Associates, HP, HSBC, Intel, KPMG, Microsoft and several more well respected organizations.

In partnership with businesses and educators, JA brings the real world to students, opening their minds to their potential and providing a proven bridge between education and business. Through age-appropriate curricula, JA programs teach students how they can impact the world around them as individuals, workers and consumers. JA Worldwide appreciates the commitment shown by its volunteers and teachers to make this program a success.

JA Success Skills: Program overview

A partially deaf boy came home from school one day carrying a note from officials at the school. The note suggested that the parents take the boy out of school, claiming that he was "too stupid to learn." The boy's mother read the note and said, "My son Tom isn't 'too stupid to learn.' I'll teach him myself." And so she did.

When Tom died many years later, the people of his country paid tribute to him by turning off the nation's lights for one full minute. You see, this Tom had invented the light bulb—and not only that, but also motion pictures and the record player. In all, Thomas Edison had more than one thousand patents to his credit.

"My mother was the making of me. She was so true and so sure of me, I felt that I had someone to live for— someone I must not disappoint. The memory of my mother will always be a blessing to me."

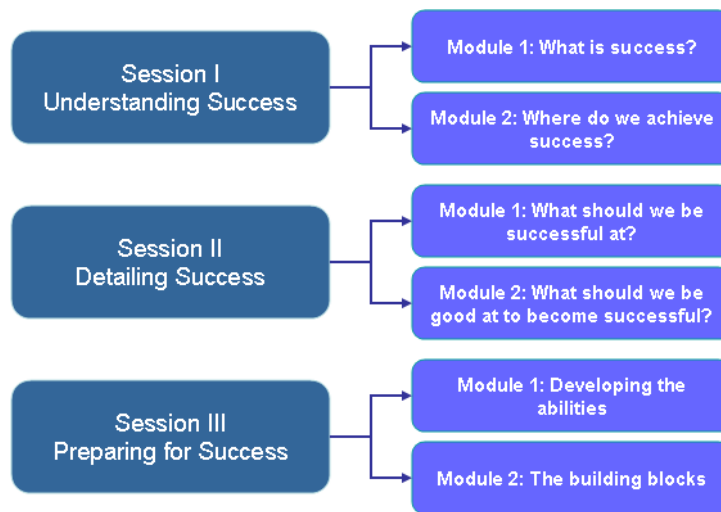
—THOMAS A. EDISON (1847–1931)

Tom was fortunate to find the mentor in his mother. The world has changed since Tom went through his experiences. On the surface, the generation gap appears to be widening, but appearances can be deceiving. Intergenerational differences are manifested differently from generation to generation, but the core issue remains the same: teenagers' need to find their place in life.

Try to remember how you felt when you were a teenager. Be it your awkwardness, your concerns about how you fit in with your friends or your insecurities with those who were more beautiful, smarter, more popular, or seemingly more self-confident. Life presented with ever bigger decisions and you knew even bigger decisions loomed ahead. You probably didn't understand what was happening at the time, and today's teenagers probably do not understand it now either – but it is the process of discovering yourself, establishing your own identity.

Teens are in the process of discovering their personalities, abilities, and goals. Yet they may not know how to go about finding answers to their anxieties. It is here where we adults can participate in their quest -- by enabling them to arrive at their definitions, discover their choices and prepare themselves to succeed with their choices. JA Success Skills has been designed to equip adolescents for understanding success better, know the Whats and Wheres of success and also identify their individual learning and development priorities as they prepare for success along their chosen paths.

The overall program is divided into three sessions with each of the sessions structured into two modules each.

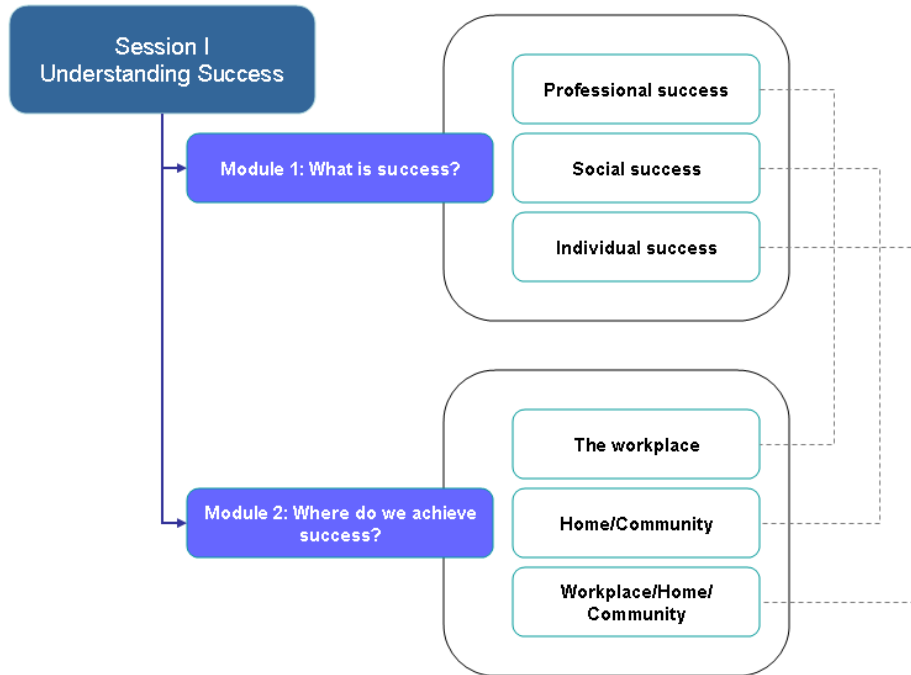


The concepts in each of the modules are presented by getting the students to participate in a few classroom activities and thereafter making them reflect upon their experience. Learnings from the experience are thereafter reinforced by articulating the underlying concept or message.

For session wise details, please refer the detailed program note below.

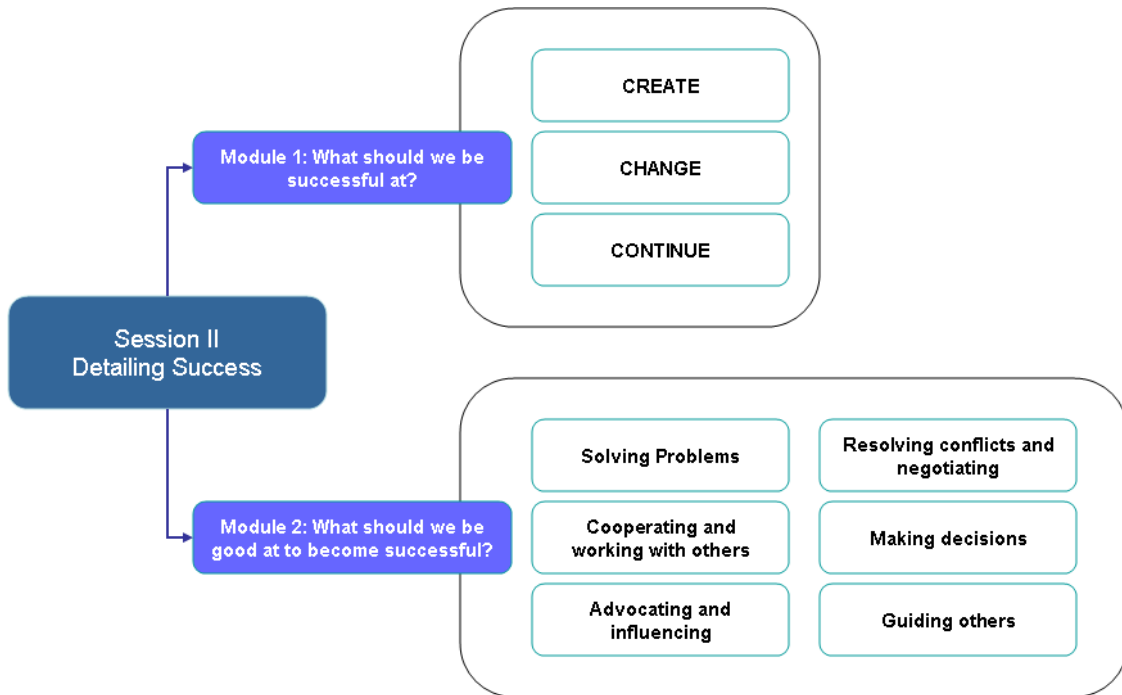
Session I: Understanding success

This session helps understand the various dimensions of success and the zones where the individual acts to achieve such success.



Session II: Detailing Success

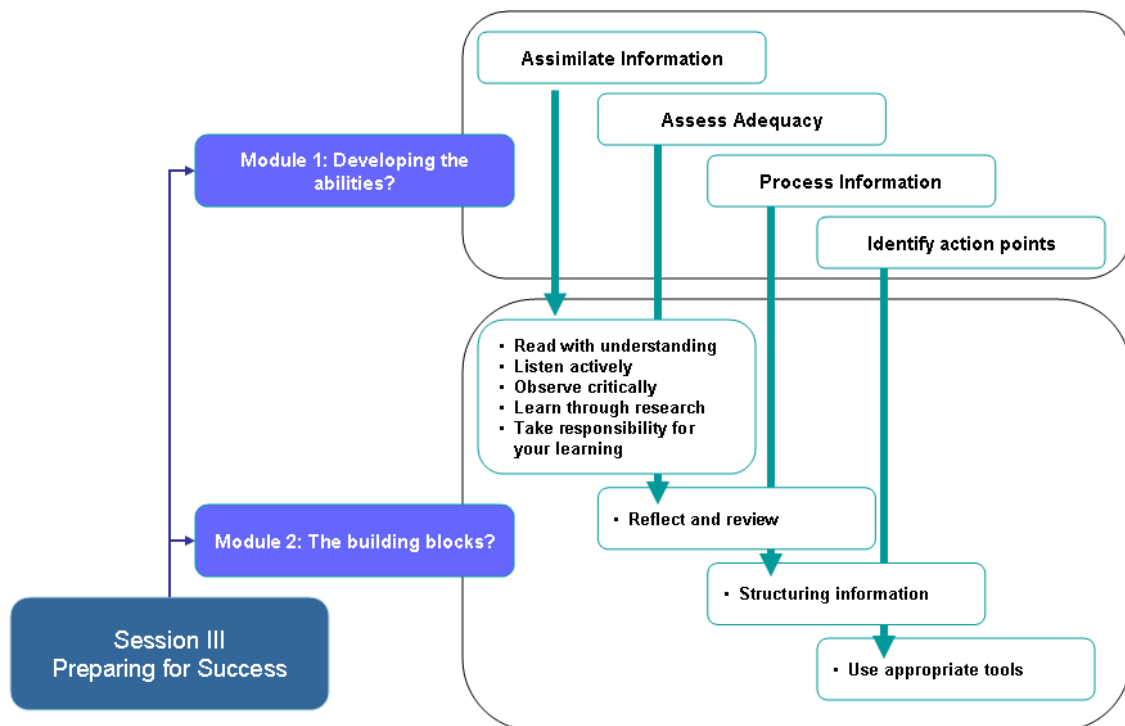
This session develops on the understanding from previous session by focusing on the outcomes (Create/Change/Continue) that individuals achieve to attain success and the abilities they need to possess for achieving such outcomes successfully.



Session III: Preparing for success

This session focuses on helping students understand the requisites for developing the desired abilities. The requisites are further deconstructed for their building blocks. These building blocks are the various skills that an individual needs to have – which come together to create a larger ability which in turn helps the individual play various roles successfully.

It is at the level of building blocks where individuals need to set their learning and development priorities. Hence, understanding them would be the first stepping stone to success.



For more information about JA Worldwide programs for undergraduate students, high school and above, middle, and elementary grades visit JA online at <http://india.ja.org>.