

# Monica

Max?

## Facilitator Discussion Guide

EYFP



## Vocabulary Alert!

A **budget** (say “buh-jih”) is a plan for spending money. Kids, adults, businesses, charities, schools, governments, and even 4-H clubs all use budgets to make sure they use their money wisely. You can learn more about budgeting at [go.ncsu.edu/youtube.budget.planning](http://go.ncsu.edu/youtube.budget.planning) or [go.ncsu.edu/youtube.budget.puppet](http://go.ncsu.edu/youtube.budget.puppet). You can also visit your local bank or credit union to learn from the experts in your neighborhood!

## Synopsis

The grandmother has just dropped Monica, Cameron, and Layla at the animal shelter after school. Monica is worried about Layla, who insists that she is fine.

Cameron and Monica interview Mr. Makhoul, and they learn that the shelter already has a program in place to help keep people and their pets together during financial hard times. They decide to shift their project from building a new facility to the far more achievable goal of supporting the shelter’s existing program. Before they leave, Cameron asks to visit the dog that Monica had seen on Saturday.

On the way to see the dog, Mr. Makhoul, Monica, and Cameron meet up with Layla and Greg. Layla and Greg had been searching for Max, but did not find him. Mr. Makhoul warns the children that the dog had been seriously injured and that it probably wouldn’t be playful or friendly. When they enter the room, Layla recognizes Max.

## Facilitator Notes

This episode aligns with Sessions 5-6 of the *Powerful Families, Powerful Communities* curriculum. The goal of this discussion guide is to help participants reflect on concrete supports and goal-setting.

Episode 6 includes conversations that touch on homelessness and animal abuse. These conversations may be upsetting to some participants. Watch for signs of distress and adjust the discussion accordingly.

An optional follow-up activity for this episode is to make a vision board. Participants can pretend they are Monica and Cameron and make a board to present to the 4-H Club, or participants can make a vision board for their own real-life goals. Help participants connect their ideas with community resources they can use to reach their goals.

## Opening

Think of a time when someone helped you on a project. What were some of the ways that person helped?

In Episode 6, Monica and Cameron meet with Mr. Makhoul about their project. As you watch, think about the different things they learn from Mr. Makhoul. When the video ends, be ready to share the most important thing they learn from him.

# Continued

## After Watching the Video

After the video, facilitate a discussion with the group. Begin by reminding the group of the expectations set during Session 1.

## Round-robin Question

It is important for everyone to contribute to this question as a way to build trust and practice listening. You can choose to go in a circle or let participants “popcorn” respond.

*What do you think was the most important thing Monica and Cameron learned from Mr. Makhoul? Right now, just tell us what they learned. We will talk about why you made your selections after everyone has shared their choice.*

## Comprehension Questions

These are suggested questions. It is not necessary to ask every question in this list. Participants may answer some of the questions before you ask them, or they may bring up their own questions to explore. As a facilitator, your job is to listen far more than you speak. In general, ask a new question only if conversation has hit a dead end and 30 seconds of silent time doesn't break the stalemate, or if you sense the discussion veering into unproductive territory. You may also want to ask follow up questions if a participant makes an interesting point that no one else takes up spontaneously. Finally, if you have some very vocal participants, you may need to occasionally break in to invite quieter participants to speak or to repeat a point that might have gone unheard.

What was the goal of Cameron's original service project idea?

How does meeting with Mr. Makhoul change Monica's and Cameron's ideas for a service project?

Compare Monica's and Cameron's original project ideas before their meeting with Mr. Makhoul to their new ideas after the meeting.

What do you think will happen with their project next?

## Talking Tips

Participants may be most interested in talking about the plot twist just before the cliffhanger ending for this episode. Let them share ideas as long as they stay focused on the story being told in the video. If the conversation starts to become repetitive or otherwise unproductive, feel free to say something like *“Let's take this conversation in a different direction. I'd like to talk a little about some other ways the visit to the animal shelter might impact Monica and Cameron in the rest of the series.”*

# Continued

## Closing Questions

There are two closing questions. The first question asks participants to apply their ideas to the fictional story shown in the video, while the second question asks them to apply their ideas to their own lives. Participants may spontaneously ask one another the first question or address it through discussion, but be prepared to ask it if they do not.

*Imagine that you are at the 4-H meeting with Cameron and Monica after they have met with Mr. Makhoul. What are some questions you would want to ask them before you voted on the idea? Explain.*

*How can community support organizations help you with your goals?*

