

## STRENGTHENING POLITICAL ACUMEN WORKSHEET

### *Strategies:*

- Acumen means accuracy and keenness of judgement or insight, so political acumen is the ability to accurately perceive and judge the formal and informal influences that shape decision making.
- Saying yes to your boss and members of your team will build reciprocity.
- Strengthening and broadening your network will build your influence and respect.

1. An organizational chart doesn't always reflect the actual power structure of an organization. Can you think of an example in your work where someone who isn't in a position of power, has influence in the workplace culture? Explain why they have this influence.
  
2. Gaining influence in the workplace relies on the development of strong ties with colleagues and on emotional intelligence. How would you rate your emotional intelligence right now? In what ways could you improve your emotional intelligence?
  
3. Can you identify a time when you or a colleague engaged in negative office politics? What were the consequences?

*“Always stay true to yourself and never let what someone says distract you from your goals.”-*

*Michelle Obama*