

MY LITTLE PONY
Season 8

Non-Compete Clause
Ep 809

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Logline: Applejack and Rainbow Dash take the friendship students on a teamwork learning field trip, and accidentally show the students how NOT to be friends.

Twilight Sparkle tells Starlight and the Mane 5 it's time for their students to go on a friendship-learning field trip! The lesson: the importance of teamwork. So if one of them would volunteer to lead it... Applejack and Rainbow Dash raise their hooves at the same time. Applejack says she's the best pony for the job: Sweet Apples Acres has taught her a thing or two about working together. Rainbow Dash smirks, "Doing death-defying moves in the air alongside the Wonderbolts is kinda the *definition* of teamwork." As they face off, Twilight Sparkle forces a smile. Okay, Applejack AND Rainbow Dash it is. Who better to teach the art of working together...?

As it turns out, Applejack already has a built-in lesson plan for teamwork: barn-raising a new apple storage shed! "Nothin' brings friends together like a little honest sweat and hard work," Applejack chuckles. The friendship students (Yana, Gossamer, Gallus, Blaze, Silverstar, and Sandalwood) have different levels of enthusiasm about this. But as they make the best of it, Rainbow Dash rushes the job, just wanting the shed built already so they can move on to HER planned activity! As she and AJ work at cross purposes (splitting the students' loyalties), the shed is built fast...But it immediately collapses. Applejack isn't happy, but Rainbow Dash is! 'Cause now it's time for HER teamwork activity...

Rainbow Dash kicks snow clouds away to reveal a pristine BOBSLED course she's created in the new snowfall. The students and AJ all get into a huge bobsled as Dash explains that teamwork is the only thing that'll get them through the course at top speed and beat the fastest record! But what promises to be a lesson in teamwork devolves into a turn-don't-turn, slow-down-speed up disaster between Dash and Applejack that ends up flipping the sled and sending everyone flying into the snow (which Silverstar thinks is amazing, and everyone else is less thrilled about).

Twilight Sparkle checks in and, seeing that Applejack and Rainbow Dash are doing more competing than team-building, suggests a conflict-free nature walk as their field trip activity. No pony could possibly get into an argument over that. Chastened, Applejack and Rainbow Dash now swing to the polar opposite of one-up-pony-ship and begin to defer to each other over everything – which way to go, what to do next, etc. But now who cannot-compete more becomes a competition too! The students look to each other – unsure who to follow, since neither teacher will take charge. Soon Dash and Applejack's admiration war gets them lost. Finally, stuck with a giant ravine between themselves and the only way back home, the ponies are forced to make a decision. Applejack suggests branches to build a bridge across the chasm, and Dash suggests using vines, but still locked in their new rivalry, they obsequiously agree to each try the other's suggestion and build TWO bridges... Neither of which is strong enough to support them on its own! The bridges break and the teachers find themselves completely entangled and dangling above

a huge drop! Finally, they can agree on something: “HELP!” Our students jump into action, each using their unique strengths and skills to pull off an impressive teamwork-inspired rescue.

Back at school, when Twilight asks the students about the field trip, Applejack and Rainbow Dash gird themselves for the worst -- but the students surprisingly praise their teachers as nothing short of brilliant. Gossamer: “It was all about reverse psychology. They showed us what *not* to do so we’d know what *to* do... right?” Blaze: “Most teachers wouldn’t have almost maimed themselves just to teach us that working together stuff.” Gallus: “Yeah. Nobody’s *that* stupid.” As the students exit, Twilight turns to Applejack and Dash. “You were actually just competing the whole time, right?” “To tell the truth...? Yep,” Applejack admits. “Well, not *all* the time,” Dash amends. “What the hay are you talkin’ ‘bout, Dash...?” Applejack counters. And as the friends start up once more...