

The Tower of Babble

Judges: Tell teams this is a Hands-on non-verbal problem

This is a two-part problem. In part 1, you will have 5 minutes to come up with a solution and practice. In part 2, you will have 5 minutes to demonstrate your solution to the judges.

Your problem is to form two teams. One team will be known as the hands-on team. The other team will be known as the non-verbal team. Your problem is to recreate a structure from the supplies given in the exact order and appearance as seen only by the non-verbal team. The non-verbal team must communicate with the hands-on team through the use of the items found in box "A". Box "B" must have the exact same items that are used to construct the original hidden structure. The two teams may handle the items during this time, but the items must not be mixed together. The hidden structure is not to be seen by either team until part 2 begins.

At the end of part 1, the solution is revealed for only the non-verbal team to see. The nonverbal team must now communicate by using only the items provided in box "A". The non-verbal team may only communicate through the use of the items provided.

Scoring is as follows:

Ability to establish a means of creative communication: 1-50 points

Successful completion of the solution: 1-100 points

Teamwork: 1-25 points

Penalty for speaking during part 2: 1-5 points each infraction

Penalty for communicating without the using an item from box 2: 1-5 points

Choose your teams wisely. Remember that the non-verbal team must be non-verbal in voice and in body language. Signaling to the hands-on team by shaking ones hand or head to give direction will be viewed as verbal body language and not permitted.

(read the problem a second time).

Your time begins now!

For the judges only:

Build a structure of varying complexity, as you feel fit, or from what I have listed below. You will need two of each item, one for your structure and one of each item to be placed in box "B" Your structure must be hidden from both teams

until part 2 begins and then it should only be seen by the non-verbal team when part 2 begins. This can be done by keeping it in a covered box or behind a curtain.

Here is a sample structure. A paper clip clipped on to a straw; the straw is stuck into a potato. The potato sits on top of a CD with the label of the CD facing down on a soda can. The soda can sits on the corner of a sheet of construction paper which has one of the corners folded over. There is a string tied around the soda can. The string is tied to a rubber band.

The communicating tools in box “A” could be: A can of soda, a ruler, a non-sharpened pencil, a pretzel, an eraser, a ball, a deck of cards, a penny, a nickel, a dime, and a quarter. The team may use all or just some of these items.

As I have found, the kids love this spontaneous. Switch teams and redo the solution in a different configuration, or change out some of the props. The hands-on team may ask questions directed to the non-verbal team at anytime but don't let them know this unless they ask. The non-verbal team must be warned every time they communicate without the use of the tools provided. They will be talking about these problems for hours afterwards.

Spontaneous is like an unlabeled pickle jar in a dark room. You must first find it, ponder it, open it up, feel it, smell it, taste it and consume it, for it to be all that it can be.

What was in your jar???

Be Spontaneous....