

You don't say ...

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" will have the exact same items as those 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 non-verbal 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 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 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.

To build the sample structure, use what ever you have easy access to. Lego's work well if you want to keep it simple. To make it more complex, you can use just about anything that you have two of. Build a tower or a bridge. After you build the structure, hide the structure from view and place the same quantity of the items that were used into box "B".

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 can be compared to a finely tuned grand piano. You only get out of it what you put into it. Practice... Practice... Practice ...

Be one with Spontaneous....