Frame Up
A Rising Stars® Task-Based Instant Challenge
Team Copy

Challenge: Your TASK is to build a frame that will balance a book on top of it.

Time: You will have 4 minutes to build your frame, and 2 minutes to balance your book or make changes to your frame that will help the book balance.

Set-up: In the center of the room is an empty taped square where your frame must stand. To the side is a table with materials.

Procedure: In the real world many objects, animals and people have frames. A frame is often hidden beneath other materials, and the job of the frame is to make things sit up, stand up or hold weight. A skyscraper’s frame is made of metal beams and concrete, and frames are hidden inside the walls of the building. A bird’s frame is its skeleton, and it is hidden beneath feathers, muscles and tendons. A chair is a frame that you can see. Its legs hold up the place where you sit, the back keeps you from falling backwards, and the whole chair holds a person’s weight.

Your task is to build a frame using the materials provided that will balance a book on top of it.

- During the first 4 minutes, use the materials to build your frame.
- Your frame must fit inside the taped square, and cannot cross the lines.
- The frame must stand at least as tall as a Styrofoam® cup.
- You can test whether your frame will balance the book during the first 4 minutes.
- When the 4 minutes ends, place a book on top of your frame to see if it will balance for 10 seconds. The Appraisers will keep track of the time.
- You will have 2 minutes to make your book balance on top of the frame. The Appraisers will keep track of the time.
- If the book does not balance, you can make changes to your frame to fix it, and then try to balance the book again.
- If your frame works, tell the Appraisers why you think it works.
- If your frame does not work, tell the Appraisers why you think it does not work.

Materials:

- 1 half-bag of regular marshmallows
- 1 box of large paper clips (the box is not part of your materials)
- 1 Styrofoam® cup that is used only for measuring the height of your frame

Your team should try to . . . !

A. Use your imagination to build a strong frame
B. Talk to each other about what makes your frame weak or strong
C. Make sure everyone gets a chance to do something
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Appraiser Copy

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For the Appraisers only:

1. During Part 1 (4 minutes), let the team know when it has 2 minutes left, 1 minute left, and 30 seconds.

2. During Part 2 (2 minutes), let the team know when it has 1 minute left and 30 seconds left.

3. The taped square measures 12 inches on each side. If the team’s frame crosses the taped line, remind them right away that the frame can’t cross any of the lines.

4. If the team forgets to explain why they think their frame works or does not, prompt them and give them time to explain, even if they run past the 2 minutes in Part 2.
# Team Assessment

**Frame Up**

**A Rising Stars!® Task-Based Instant Challenge**

Evaluators: Place a mark along the continuum for the assessments. This process will help the team see where its strengths lie, as well as areas for discussion and improvement. (Source for this page's content: Minnesota Destination Imagination, [http://www.mindi.org](http://www.mindi.org))

1. Did the solution match what the team was asked to do in the challenge?

| Not complete. | Finished, but just barely. | Finished with time to spare, and time to rehearse. |

2. Did the team develop a well-organized plan of action to solve the challenge?

| Were disorganized. plan Did not make a plan. | Sort of knew what they wanted to do and how. | Jumped right in on a plan and carried it out with flair. |

3. Was the team aware of time-management issues and constraints?

| Time flew and team didn’t realize it. | Was aware of the time and tried to use it well. | Monitored time, worked efficiently and had time to think. |

4. Did team members interact and depend on each other?

| They were individuals, wanting own way; dominators. | Looked to each other for ideas and support. | Fed off each other and multiplied the outcome; each felt great at the end. |

5. Did everyone in the Instant Challenge participate?

| A couple of strong voices; others were invisible. | Most participated and added to the challenge. | Each member played a role and was affirmed for it. |

6. Did the team listen and follow directions?

| Not completely; jumped to conclusions and wasted time. | Knew what they had to do; knew what was expected. | Follow to a “T” . . . played the game with confidence! |

7. Was the solution creative/unique?

| Predictable, obvious solution. | Tried to change the obvious to unusual application/outcome. | One-of-a-kind; out-of-the-blue; clever. |

8. How creatively did the team use the materials provided?

| Predictable and expected use of the components. | New twists to some common items. | Off-the-wall uses for items; items showed outstanding skill or knowledge of team members. |

Comments (use reverse if necessary):