Concurrent Towers
A Task-Based Instant Challenge
Team Copy

Challenge: Your task is to BUILD two towers as tall as possible, with each tower using as many types of materials as possible that are different from each other.

Time: You will have one minute to plan and discuss your strategy, and four minutes to build your two towers.

Set-Up: In the center of the room is a table with materials to build your towers. On each side of the room, there is a table on which a square is taped.

Procedure

Part 1: (1 minute)
- Plan and discuss your strategy about how to build the two towers.
- You may not touch the materials at this time.

Part 2: (4 minutes)
- Build two towers as tall as possible.
- Build one tower inside each taped square.
- Whichever tower is shortest will be measured when points are awarded for height.
- Use as many types of materials as possible for each tower that are different from the other tower, since points will be awarded for the types of materials in each tower that are different from each other.

Materials:
- 4 mailing labels
- 4 craft sticks
- 4 straws
- 2 Styrofoam cups
- 4 note cards
- 4 paper clips
- 2 chenille stems
- 4 rubber bands
- 1 piece of hook-and-loop tape
- 2 plastic forks

Scoring: You will receive
A. 2 points (30 points maximum) for each inch of height of the shortest tower
B. 3 points (30 points maximum) for each type of material used in one tower that is not used in the other tower
C. Up to 20 points for creativity and development of your solution
D. Up to 20 points for how well your team works together

Developed by Students for a Creative Iowa, http://www.cre8iowa.org. This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-Share Alike 3.0 license. To view a copy of this license, visit http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/.
Concurrent Towers
A Task-Based Instant Challenge
Appraiser Copy

Challenge: Your task is to BUILD two towers as tall as possible, with each tower using as many types of materials as possible that are different from each other.

Time: You will have one minute to plan and discuss your strategy, and four minutes to build your two towers.

Set-Up: In the center of the room is a table with materials to build your towers. On each side of the room, there is a table on which a square is taped.

Procedure

Part 1: (1 minute)
- Plan and discuss your strategy about how to build the two towers.
- You may not touch the materials at this time.

Part 2: (4 minutes)
- Build two towers as tall as possible.
- Build one tower inside each taped square.
- Whichever tower is shortest will be measured when points are awarded for height.
- Use as many types of materials as possible for each tower that are different from the other tower, since points will be awarded for the types of materials in each tower that are different from each other.

Materials:
- 4 mailing labels
- 4 craft sticks
- 4 straws
- 2 Styrofoam cups
- 4 note cards
- 4 paper clips
- 2 chenille stems
- 4 rubber bands
- 1 piece of hook-and-loop tape
- 2 plastic forks

Scoring: You will receive
A. 2 points (30 points maximum) for each inch of height of the shortest tower
B. 3 points (30 points maximum) for each type of material used in one tower that is not used in the other tower
C. Up to 20 points for creativity and development of your solution
D. Up to 20 points for how well your team works together
Concurrent Towers
A Task-Based Instant Challenge

For the Appraisers only:

Set-up:
1. Set up the tables according to the following diagram.

2. Each piece of hook-and-loop tape measures 2-1/2 inches. Use the sew-on variety, both halves.

Notes:
1. The team may either divide into two groups and work on both towers at once, or work on only one tower at a time. Each strategy has its benefits and pitfalls.

2. Team members should communicate with each other about the size of each tower as well as the materials used in each tower.

3. To make more difficult, change the scoring for “A” to read:
   A. 1 point (30 points maximum) for each inch of height of the shortest tower
## Concurrent Towers
A Task-Based Instant Challenge
Score Sheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Height of shortest tower</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>___ inches x 2 points = ___ points (30 pts max.)</td>
<td>0 or 2-30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Each type of material that is different in one tower than in the other tower</td>
<td>0 or 3-30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>___ types of materials x 3 points = ___ points (30 pts max.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Creativity and development of solution</td>
<td>1-20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. How well team works together</td>
<td>1-20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comments:
Team Assessment
Concurrent Towers
A 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.mndii.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. 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):