

# It's a Bridge, It's a Tower, No It's . . .

A Combination Instant Challenge  
Team Copy

**Challenge:** Your Challenge is to BUILD a freestanding structure as tall and/or as long as possible, and to make a PRESENTATION about why City Hall should choose your structure.

**Time:** You will have 4 minutes to build your structure and then 1 minute to modify the structure. The structure must stand freely for 10 seconds after all building time ends. You will then have 2 minutes to make a presentation about why City Hall should pick your structure.

**Set-up:** There is a table with materials in the center of the room.

**The Scene:** You are one of several teams that cre8ville City Hall has asked to build a structure for its celebration, and it has to be done soon. The problem is that City Hall hasn't decided if the town needs a tower or a bridge. While City Hall tries to make up its mind, you will have to build the tallest and/or longest structure you can. You will then have to make a presentation about why City Hall should pick your structure.

Part 1 (4 minutes):

- You will plan and build your freely standing structure.
- For the purpose of this challenge, a freestanding structure is one that is not attached to any surface, is not being supported by your team members, and has no more than 4 points of contact with the surface.
- You may also plan your presentation during this time.

Part 2 (1 minute):

- Before Part 2 begins, your team will stop working on the structure and will randomly draw a folded slip of paper that says TOWER or BRIDGE to discover what type of structure City Hall wants.
- You may then make any modifications to your structure that you wish.
- Your structure will have to stand freely for at least 10 seconds immediately after Part 2.
- The Appraisers will measure the height and length of the structure after 10 seconds have passed.

Part 3 (2 minutes):

- Tell City Hall why it should pick your structure for its celebration.

## Materials:

- 1 coffee filter
- 5 toothpicks
- 1 sheet of paper
- 2 cups
- 2 plastic forks
- 2 plastic spoons
- 2 plastic knives
- 1 sheet of aluminum foil
- 5 mailing labels

**Scoring:** You will receive

If TOWER is selected:

- 1 point for each inch of height of your Tower (up to 30 points maximum)
- 1 point for every two inches of length of your Tower (up to 10 points maximum)

If BRIDGE is selected:

- 1 point for each inch of length of your Bridge (up to 30 points maximum)
- 1 point for every two inches of height of your Bridge (up to 10 points maximum)

For Both TOWER and BRIDGE:

- 5 points if your structure freely stands for at least 10 seconds
- Up to 15 points for creative use of materials
- Up to 20 points for the creativity of your presentation
- Up to 20 points for how well your team works together



# It's a Bridge, It's a Tower, No It's . . .

A Combination Instant Challenge  
Appraiser Copy

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Part 3 (2 minutes):

- Tell City Hall why it should pick your structure for its celebration.

**Materials:**

- 1 coffee filter
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- 1 sheet of paper
- 2 cups
- 2 plastic forks
- 2 plastic spoons
- 2 plastic knives
- 1 sheet of aluminum foil
- 5 mailing labels

**Scoring:** You will receive

If TOWER is selected:

- 1 point for each inch of height of your Tower (up to 30 points maximum)
- 1 point for every two inches of length of your Tower (up to 10 points maximum)

If BRIDGE is selected:

- 1 point for each inch of length of your Bridge (up to 30 points maximum)
- 1 point for every two inches of height of your Bridge (up to 10 points maximum)

For Both TOWER and BRIDGE:

- 5 points if your structure freely stands for at least 10 seconds
- Up to 15 points for creative use of materials
- Up to 20 points for the creativity of your presentation
- Up to 20 points for how well your team works together



**For the Appraisers only:**

**Set-Up:**

1. Set up materials on a clean surface, such as a table or the floor, which is at least 30 inches in one direction.
2. Ahead of time, print the word TOWER on one folded piece of paper, and the word BRIDGE on another folded piece of paper.

**Notes:**

1. At the end of Part 1, but before Part 2 begins, ask the team to select one of 2 pieces of folded paper. One piece of paper will have the word TOWER on it, while the other piece of paper will say BRIDGE.
2. At the end of Part 2, but before Part 3 begins, the Appraiser should be prepared to time whether or not the structure freely stands for 10 seconds.
3. At the end of Part 2, but before Part 3 begins, the Appraisers should measure the structure for both height and length.
4. If a team selects BRIDGE and decides to make it completely flat (thus creating a potential zero score for height), Appraisers may wish to consider how this could affect the creative use of materials score (scoring element D).
5. To make easier:
  - Remove the points of contact requirement.
  - Increase work time.
  - Decrease the amount of time the structure has to stand freely to 5 seconds.
6. To make more difficult:
  - Restrict the points of contact requirement to 2 points.
  - Decrease work time.
  - Increase the amount of time the structure has to stand freely to 30 seconds.



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 Score Sheet

DESCRIPTION	POINTS	TOTAL
If Tower is selected:		
A. Height (inches) ___ x 1 point	0-30	
B. Length (inches in nearest multiple of 2) ___ x .5 point	0-10	
If Bridge is selected:		
A. Length (inches) ___ x 1 point	0-30	
B. Height (inches in nearest multiple of 2) ___ x .5 point	0-10	
C. Structure freely stands for 10 seconds	0 or 5	
D. Creative use of materials	1-15	
E. Creativity of presentation	1-20	
F. How well your team works together (see below)	1-20	

F. Teamwork: Circle 0-4 in each of the five rows.

	Little or no indication of teamwork	Low level of teamwork	Adequate level of teamwork	Good level of teamwork	Outstanding—exceptional level of teamwork
Shared goal and purpose	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
Working together and cooperating	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
Support and communication	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
Focus on results	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
Respect for team members and ideas	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>

**Shared goal and purpose:** The extent to which the team gives evidence that they have a common goal that everyone is committed to meeting.

**Working together and cooperating:** The extent to which the team members display cooperation and collaboration, with all team members having a role and making a contribution.

**Support and communication:** The extent to which, when working on the Challenge, the team members *listen* to each, *exchange* ideas, and *support* or *build* on each others' ideas.

**Focus on results:** The extent to which the team's activities are relevant to their goal and help them move forward, rather than spending time and effort on unimportant or trivial tasks.

**Respect for team members and ideas:** The extent to which the team members' social behaviors are positive and courteous, without bickering, arguing or destructive criticism.

Comments: (Use reverse side if necessary)

