



ACTIVITY: 'TOWERS'

TIME: 15+ minutes
SIZE: Small groups
SPACE: Clear room for small groups to work
RESOURCES: Wild Cards (p.81 or SenseAbility CD), dried spaghetti, marshmallows, paper cups, tape measure, golf ball, bucket

The aim is to involve students in an activity that is made more challenging by unexpected circumstances.
The result should be discussion about the importance of helpful and flexible thinking to Sense of Purpose.

1. Each student selects a Wild Card from the bucket, and puts it, unread, into their pocket.
2. Break the class into teams of three to five. Aim for the same number in each team.
3. Give each team an identical number of dried spaghetti sticks (15–30) and marshmallows (10–20) and one paper cup.
4. Explain the objective: each team is to build as high a tower as possible out of spaghetti and marshmallows (with paper cup at top) that will support a golf ball. They have 10 minutes to do so.
5. At the five minute mark, have every student pull out, read, and obey their Wild Card instructions (e.g. 'You must stand on one leg for one minute') as they continue to build their tower.
6. At 10 minutes stop the clock and test every completed tower with the golf ball. Praise every attempt!



DISCUSSION SUGGESTIONS

- Ask the successful teams to explain their strategies. Discuss how/why things went wrong for the unsuccessful teams.
- What went through your mind when you read your Wild Card? How did that make you feel? How did those thoughts affect your Sense of Purpose?
- What thinking skills worked best when dealing with the Wild Cards?
- Would this activity have been harder if you'd been working alone? Why/why not?
- In what ways might this activity be like real life?
- What strategies can you brainstorm to promote helpful thinking to bolster your Sense of Purpose?
- Brainstorm some real-life examples that this exercise might be a small echo of (e.g. completing a new house just before a freak storm destroys it). How would Sense of Purpose help you decide whether to continue or give up (e.g. rebuild or not rebuild your destroyed home)?