

Task-Based Instant Challenges

Types of Task-Based Instant Challenges

To Communicate:

- Task must be completed without verbal communication
- Teams should develop communication systems early in the year. Develop both visual and auditory systems.

To Build:

- Tasks may be to build up, out or as long as possible. Creations may have to bear weight.
- Things to practice: build a tower as tall as possible, build a bridge across a 12" span, build an object as long as possible. Do each multiple times using different materials.
- Understand the principles of construction - triangles, circles, base of support.

To Move

- Task involves moving something from one place to another
- Points may be given for accuracy, speed, change of direction, retrieving items, through an obstacle course, etc.

To Protect

- Task involves protecting something - an egg, a ping pong ball, a structure, etc.

To Change

- Task involves changing something into something else using given materials.

Task-Based Elements to Teach and Practice

1. Listen, listen, listen to the reading of the challenge.
 - Never assume anything.
 - Don't jump to conclusions.
 - Listen and understand all the information before deciding your approach.
 - Concentrate on the challenge.
 - If you have a mental block, listen to your teammates.
2. Teach properties of materials.
 - Introduce one type of challenge at a time.
 - Let the team fail, analyze, and try again until they are satisfied they have found the best solution.
 - Increase complexity as the team becomes more proficient.
3. Every item given to them in an instant challenge may have many uses. They should always be looking for "alternative uses" for common items.
4. There are points for teamwork in every instant challenge. Some task-based instant challenges will demonstrate better teamwork skills if the team breaks into sub-groups in

order to solve the challenge efficiently in the time allowed. Teams may need to practice breaking up into sub-groups after initial brainstorming.

5. Basic tips for task-based instant challenges:
 - Have the team redefine or reword the challenge in order to determine if they have any questions.
 - The team should understand the goal of the challenge before forming a strategy or manipulating the materials.
 - Have team designate and match tasks to individual's specialties.
6. Repeat instant challenges until the team agrees on the best solution. Do the same instant challenge on different days but change one or two components (materials, time, and task to be accomplished).

Preparing for a Task-Based Instant Challenge

1. Look for the key words - Move, transport, change, etc.
2. Break down the solution into components.
3. Examine materials available without altering them.
4. Decide what should be done first?
5. Are presentation tools required for the challenge? Would presentation skills enhance the challenge?
6. Does dividing the tasks seem more productive?
7. What are the limitations: lines you must or must not cross, materials that cannot be part of solution, items each team member must use, what can you touch or not touch?
8. Is there more than one part of the solution (phases) build then ___?
9. Develop a team strategy before beginning work.