

TEAM LEADERSHIP PROBLEM

18. BENDING THE RULES

Theme: Conflict Resolution

Estimated Time: 25-30 minutes

Resources Required: A box of paper clips for every 5 students

Activity Description and Step-by-Step Instructions:

This activity combines creative thinking with conflict resolution to produce unexpected outcomes.

Break up the group into teams of five. {A smaller team of four may be used for one or more teams, if necessary.} Give each team a box of paper clips. Instruct each team that they have five minutes for every person on the team to make any object they wish with the box of paper clips. After five minutes, stop the exercise and ask the teams to quickly show what they made.

Now instruct the teams that they have five minutes to create anything they want as a group, but they must incorporate all of the individuals' creations. After five minutes, stop the exercise and ask the teams to quickly show their creations.

If you have more than two teams, now instruct the teams that they must further negotiate with another group to combine the two groups' work products to create something new. After five minutes, stop the exercise and ask the teams to quickly show what they made.

{You can keep combining as necessary as time and group size allow.}

Discussion Questions:

What were some methods used that worked or did not work?

What were some ways to make the team work more efficiently?

What were some concepts learned from this exercise?

How can these concepts be applied outside this activity?