

TEAM LEADERSHIP PROBLEM

9. MIND GAMES

Theme: Problem Solving

Estimated Time: 25-30 minutes

Resources Required: A scrap piece of paper for each team.

Activity Description and Step-by-Step Instructions:

Sometimes, the mind can lead us to reach wrong conclusions. These activities help to reveal that our minds are not always reliable.

Mind Game A: Here's a classic "Who did it?" puzzle that challenges a team's problem-solving skills. Divide the group into equal teams of four or five. State that each team has been called to solve a mystery. Each team will have 10 minutes to discuss the situation together and try to solve the mystery. Once each group is satisfied with its answer, a member of the group writes it down and each group waits for everyone to finish. {Call time at 10 minutes or when everyone is done, whichever comes first}.

State the following: Three of these statements are untrue, so "Who did it?"

Mr. Red: "Mr. Blue did it."

Mr. Blue: "Mr. Red did it."

Mr. Green: "Mr. Blue's telling the truth."

Mr. Yellow: "Mr. Green's not lying."

How many of you guessed Mr. Red? {Correct answer: Mr. Blue}

Mind Game B: Here's another mental problem that shows our reasoning skills may need some attention. No need to divide into teams; everyone can participate, but they can't talk out loud or shout the answer. State the following:

We're going to do a quick math problem. I'm going to ask you to do the math in your head, so do not write during this step of the exercise. Add in your head the following: $1,000 + 60$. Now add 2,000. Add 30 more. Add 1,000. Now add 10 and write down your answer. How many of you said, 5,000? Anyone get a different number? {Correct answer: 4,100}

Discussion Questions:

What did we just do?

What did you learn?

What were some leadership concepts learned from this exercise?

How can these leadership concepts be applied to outside this activity?