

Ten Clumsy Fingers

When the team enters the room, tell them this is a hands-on problem.

Ever hear the saying “The whole is greater than the sum of the parts”? In theory, this statement doesn’t add up. $2+2+2+2+2=10$. (Not greater than 10.) What this statement means is that if we work as a team instead of individually, we may accomplish so much more. Therefore, the whole team is better than 5 individuals all doing their own thing. The following problem will make this statement a reality.

Judge Reads to Teams:

This is a two-part problem. In part one, you will have 6 minutes to build a device from the materials provided. In part two, you will have 2 minutes to disassemble your solution to the problem. You may ask questions during your think time, however, time continues. Once time begins, it will not be stopped.

Your problem:

In part one, you will have 6 minutes to build a device that will be used to suspend an empty soda can as far away from the start point as possible. Each member may only use one thumb and one finger each to build the device. You may not switch fingers once you begin. You may use only the items provided. The structure must begin on the “X” on the table, and remain touching the “X” at all times. The can must be placed somewhere on the structure, and the distance will be measured from the start point to the furthest edge of the can. When time starts in part two, the team must successfully disassemble the device and return the items to their original start point. If any items were altered, the team must make every attempt to reassemble the items to their original shape and form. The items must be returned to their exact locations.

Scoring:

Distance measured: 5 points per inch

Teamwork: 1-50 points

How well the team managed to replace the items in part 2: 1-100 points

Re-read the Problem. Then start the timer.

Supplies given to the team: one plastic shopping bag from your favorite store with the following items inside; Empty soda can, large paper or plastic plate, 10 toothpicks, 4 plastic straws, 5 balloons, 2 plastic spoons, large Styrofoam cup, 2’ of string, 6" square of contact paper, 3 sheets of plain paper, business size

envelope, small bottle of sticky glue, two rubberbands, scissors. Substitute items when needed.

Coach: Let the team get creative. Nothing said the can had to be suspended up off the table as long as the can does not rest directly on the table. The can could hang off the table, or simply rest on a piece of paper on the table. The team may use the plastic bag for their device, but don't tell them this unless asked. GET A GOOD LAUGH WHEN THE TEAM BLOWS UP THE BALLOONS. HOW ARE THEY GOING TO TIE THEM?

Today's mini Spontaneous: Name things that are often forgotten.

Name things that are used as or act as containers. (Lots of room for creativity here)