



Mind Sprint Sample The Subject is the Object!

Sample Materials
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QUICK SET-UP: You'll need a foot ruler or yardstick, so quickly check the room for one, or ask a Host/Facilitator! Divide the materials into equal piles in order to give the maximum amount of building materials to each team at your meet. [Piles consisted of a pingpong ball, two straws, and three popsicle sticks.] Write this list on the blackboard: Height-13 pts. per in., color-10, shape-10, girth of the work-3 pts. per in., creativity-25, cooperation and teamwork-10. Read over the portion called "Conducting the Mind Sprint", below, to find out the assignment and objective of this exercise. Remember not to read the bracketed [] information out loud.

Decide where you'll have teams work. Then clear a space for them to build. (The floor might work best for this Mind Sprint, especially if it's not carpeted. Make a sketch so you can return the furniture to its original position.) Use the ruler or yardstick, or some other way to measure each team's masking tape and their finished sculpture. Decide where you will stand or sit to score and time this event. Locate the score sheet and a pen. You're ready!

OBJECTIVE: To give students a problem which challenges their team cooperation, spatial reasoning, divergent and creative thinking.

Conducting the Mind Sprint: [Make sure the team entering the room is the scheduled team. Then say,] I am going to provide you with a few building materials. You may incorporate these things, one foot of masking tape and five pieces of scratch paper from your Competition Kit into the tallest possible object you can build in seven minutes. You may ask me to measure your sculpture at any time during the seven minutes, then continue to work on greater height, detailing, and so on.

The object must be a sculpture of a person, place or thing, and must be recognizable to the judge[s]. Decide what you'll build and get going. I'll answer questions as you build and I've put the scoring criteria on the board. You may begin. Team, you *may not* attach their sculpture to any object in the room to make it stable, nor may they use any objects other than what you provide, plus their own tape and paper. You *may*, however, use Competition Kit items to decorate and embellish the work. For instance, you *may* use markers to color the paper, or use scissors to cut things with. The scissors, markers, etc. may not become a part of your sculpture, however. You may ask me for more clarifications, if necessary; then I'll re-read the rules, if you wish. [At four minutes, remind them that you will measure it as many times as they'd like, and ask them if they'd like you to do the first measurement "so you'll have at least one measurement recorded." Call "Time" at seven minutes and then do the last measurement; or do the last one when they say they're done, if they finish earlier than seven minutes.]

Scoring: Teams earn 15 points per inch of sculpture, plus 3 points per inch for its girth. If the sculpture falls over before it is measured, measure the height of the heap it leaves on the floor, plus the girth of the single biggest piece it leaves (if parts detach). Teams may ask for interim measurements, then add to and refine their sculptures. Their score should be based on the highest numbers attained during the building period.

They also earn points for various other characteristics of their work: **Color--10 points** per color used; **shape--an additional 10 points** for accurate sculpting; **creativity--25 points** for uniqueness of subject matter; **amount of detailing--10 points** for additions such as eyes or toenails on a human, etc.; and **teamwork--10 points** if you catch them discussing and cooperating, but not being negative or verbally destructive!

As you tabulate scores as described above, **please watch for any student or team that exhibits outstanding creativity, as this person or team is eligible for the Mary Ann Berdan Creativity Award.** (If so, please bring it to the attention of the Host/Facilitator.) Please reward these special students and teams at this Meet!

Also, kindly return any moved equipment for the classroom teacher, and turn the materials back to the Host/Facilitator, as they become the property of the hosting school at the conclusion of today's Meet. Thank you for running this Mind Sprint today!