

Building Dynamic Groups



Towers: An Intergroup Competition

- Goals:**
1. To create an opportunity for non-threatening group interaction.
 2. To provide a basis for feedback to group members on their relations with other group members and their productivity in a task situation.
 3. To help members see the importance of being able to work together cooperatively.

Group Size: Unlimited (Each group should be at least 4 but not more than 9)

Time Required: 20-30 minutes

Materials: 100 paper cups per group

- Procedure:**
1. Members are told they must work as a group to build “the best tower”. They will be judged on height, aesthetic appeal and sturdiness of their tower.
 2. Group is given 15 minutes to build the tower.
 3. Select a few participants to act as judges and select the best tower.
 4. The facilitator reviews what has happened and discusses value of working in groups.

Variation: Other criteria, such as cooperation, creativity, and speed can be applied to determine the winning group.

- Processing:**
1. Did you enjoy working with people you didn't know very well?
 2. How did you feel as a member of the group?
 3. Did you think this task was easier knowing what the goal was as you started?
 4. Did a group leader surface early in the building process?
 5. Did everybody in the group participate? Is that similar to other activities you have been a part of?
 6. Do you think everyone should be given a chance to participate?

Reference: Martin, R.R.; Weber, P.L.; Henderson, W.E.; LaFontaine, K.R.; Sachs, R.E.; Roth, J.; Cox, K.J.; Schaffner, D. (1987). Towers: An intergroup competition (Section 5 p. 1). LASER D.I.S.C. Columbus, OH: Ohio State University Extension.