

One-Minute Tower

Activities for Collaborative Thinking

ICEBREAKERS AND TEAM BUILDERS TO BUILD COMMUNITY

OBJECTIVE

- To give participants a creative team-building challenge

MATERIALS

- For this activity, each group will need a paper bag with identical art and office supplies to build a tower.
- A stopwatch

SETUP

- Prepare the materials in bags. You will need enough bags for groups of four participants each.
- Construct a detailed structure using a combination of the same art and office supplies as the ones in the bags.
- Display the structure in a separate room.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Divide participants into **groups of four**.
2. Explain that groups will have **five minutes** to **build a tower that exactly mirrors the prototype** you have built.
3. When you say, "**Go**," each group will **send one representative** into the next room. They will have **thirty seconds to view the tower**, and then they must **come report back** to their group what to build.
4. After **one minute**, announce that each group may now **send in a second person** for a **thirty-second viewing**.
5. When that person returns, they will have additional **information and edits** to their designs.
6. **Continue** sending in a new person every

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One-Minute Tower continued

minute until each group member has had a chance to view the tower or until you call, "**Time**."

7. As each group member returns, they can **provide directions** to team members **or start building**, whichever they choose.
8. Give participants about **ten minutes** to build their structures and then call, "**Time**."
9. **Bring the original sculpture** that you built out of the viewing room, for all to see.
10. Have each group **share one aspect of the tower they did perfectly and one aspect that is off**.

DEBRIEF

- **How was this activity?**
- **What was it like to see the structure one time?**
- **Did any leaders emerge? What traits helped them to lead the group?**
- **How did your group communicate?**
- **How did you work out conflict?**
- **Did it get harder or easier as each new person looked at the structure?**