

Short Problem Solving Activities

1. What can you do with a paperclip? Make a list.
2. Fill a few envelopes or small boxes with everyday items. Have the groups of students spend 5 to 10 minutes building a tower. The only directions are "Build a tower." The hopes are that the groups will share or collaborate.
3. How many times can you fold a piece of paper in half? 6 to 7 times is typically the maximum
4. Make a list of how many ways you can say "no"
5. Name Game: My name is Laurie and I like lemons...His name is Joe and he likes jelly beans...
6. Line up according to your birth month...no talking!
7. Tying the Knot : Divide the group of people into teams of equal members and give each of these groups a long piece of rope. Each member in the group has to hold a part of the rope. At the blow of the whistle, the team has to tie a knot in the center of the rope without any of the members letting go of it. The first team that manages to do the same, wins. This game requires analytical thinking and the ability to work under pressure.
8. Paper Folding: Divide the group into teams of 3 or 2. Each of them is given a sheet of paper. The objective of the game is that they have to balance themselves on the paper, no matter what. If any part of their body touches the ground, they are disqualified. With every turn, the paper is folded and they have to devise ways of how to balance on the same. This requires innovation, strength and a calm mind to be able to think in the most tensed situation.
9. Dividing into groups and pairs <http://www.youthwork.com/activitiesdividetext.html>
10. Hold up a roll of toilet paper and inform group that it will be passed around and each person may take off as many or as few sheets off as they like. After each person in the group has taken their share, break the news to the group that for each sheet they took, they have to tell the group something about themselves. Example: For 4 sheets...."#1. My name is Bob, #2. My favorite subject is Science, #3. I like to play football in my spare time
11. Sit in a circle. One person stands in the middle. They say "I like people who..." Those people have to switch seats before the person in the middle gets their seat. The person left is in the middle and it starts over...