

## TEAM BUILDING ACTIVITY: GRAB BAG

Description: Each team works together to identify 10 different uses for each common item found within their grab bag. A competitive event, each team races against the other teams to be “first” to finish successfully within 1.5 minutes. All team results are judged by the facilitator (whose ruling is final and cannot be contested). Project criteria include:

- List of 10 different uses (other than the item’s original intended use) for each item
- Creativity
- Usefulness
- Presentation

Supplies (resources), one set per team:

- One paper bag sealed (stapled or taped) with the following contents\*:
  - Pencil with eraser
  - Wire coat hanger
  - Rubber band
  - Large office clip
  - 12” piece of string

\*Contents may be anything you want – just provide the same to each team.

Instructions:

- Place sealed paper bags on a table at the front of the room.
- Provide team instructions:
  - Each team will have only 1.5 minutes to complete the exercise.
  - This is a competitive event, racing against other teams to be the first team to successfully identify 10 different uses for each item within the bag.
  - Uses must be other than the original intended use of item.
  - Only one item at a time can be pulled from the bag. Once 10 different uses for one item has been listed, the next item can be pulled from the bag.
  - Each team must elect a designated “runner” to retrieve items from the bag.
  - Identify criteria for judging successful completion of the event.

Debrief:

- At the conclusion of 1.5 minutes, call time.
- At their own tables, have teams prepare their presentations to the rest of class. Presentations will identify the uses for each item.
- Facilitator must award a rating for each team (use a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest, for each criterion). Highest possible score: 20

Discussion questions:

- What were the factors contributing/limiting to their success?
- How was team leadership determined – appointed or assumed?
- What unique contributions did each member offer? How did those contributions affect the successful outcome of the project?
- How did the competitive nature of the event affect the quality of the project?