



Project Adventure

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Letter Connections

Goals: In small teams attain as many points as possible in 2 or 3 minute periods by creating words. Framing as a continuous improvement exercise with subsequent rounds encourages engagement, reflection and strategy development. Adding scores of teams together for a collective goal (scores of several groups combined) supports both healthy competition as well as collaboration across small groups.

Materials: Letter cards providing at least two versions of the entire alphabet with multiples (x6) of vowels and common consonants. Easel(s) with wipe board or flip chart(s) for word recording and scoring.

Instructions:

- Place letter cards randomly face down on each table/tables with 3-5 participants per small group/table.
- Upon the facilitator 'start' signal everyone selects cards, one for each hand to form a word quickly and with good point value.
- Once any letter has been used in a word it is discarded to the pile face down and another selected at random for subsequent words. Cards may be reused.
- For word forming letters must be held in the hands, not placed onto a surface (this encourages participation and discourages one person from taking over)
- A 'runner' needs to be assigned who records the words on the Easel. A separate column should be established for each group. The runner is the one person with permission to leave their cards on the table for team viewing and use in word formation. They may also hold letters then drop and run to the board as needed.
- Assign value to different size words (3 letters = 3 pts, 4 letters = 5 pts., etc.)
- Smaller groups (3) increases participation but limits word options, larger groups (4-6) increases word range and complexity.
- Allow time between rounds to discuss strategies, roles, set a goal.

Variation/Debrief:

- Double or triple point value for words with specific thematic association. For instance a connection to Full Value (group norms), leadership, a book group has read, a technical learning focus, etc. This allows the activity to double as an engaging content engagement or review strategy. In this version there is also a dynamic opportunity to affirm or challenge one another's word associations (how is 'worm' connected to leadership?!). The resulting explanations foster creativity and draw on debate-like skills as well as imaginative/humorous rationale.

Safety Check: Recommend that the 'runner' move around the space with caution and speed no greater than a fast walk.