

6th - 12th Pen Turning

Team Building

Lesson Description:

Need something to puzzle your brain? This team building session will offer fun, **problem solving** activities that will get your students' brains turning and working together.

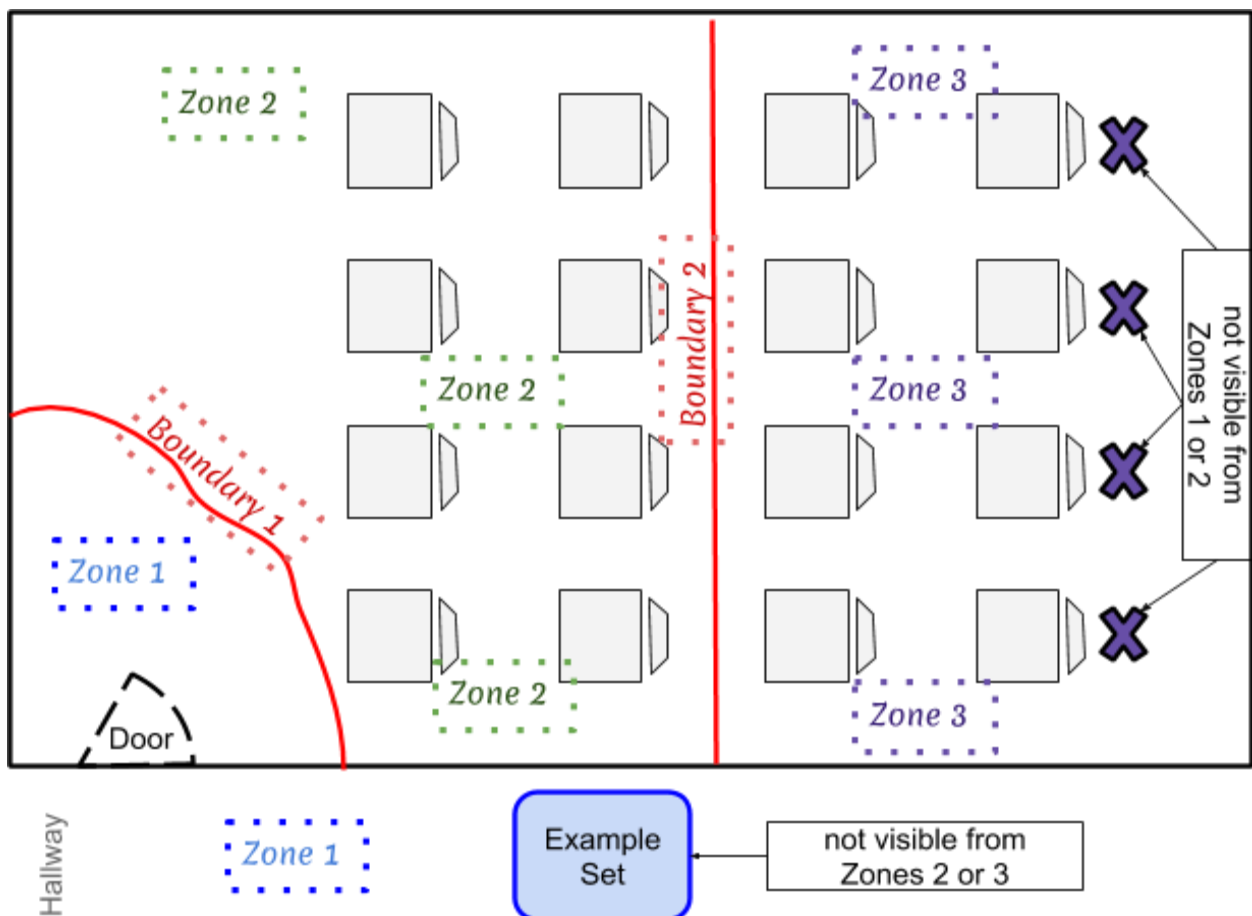
Materials Needed:

- 1 Pen/pencil/writing utensil per student
- 8-12 Common office/classroom supplies that you have multiples of, examples:
 - Pens, pencils, markers (same colors/as identical as possible)
 - Sticky notes or pieces of paper
 - Paper clips
 - Textbooks
 - Rulers
- Bags, baggies, or boxes to put these items in
- Masking tape, rope, or some other object that can be used to mark boundaries (2 total)
- Cardboard box or opaque tub (optional)

Advanced Preparation:

- Please preassign your students into groups of 3 or 4
- Collect office supplies and organize into identical sets. You will need 1 set per student group, plus one example set.
 - Place each student group set into a container to be passed out later.
 - Arrange the items in the example set in a random configuration in a hidden location (see room setup below). Before play begins, **take a picture of the example set**, just in case it is accidentally disturbed during game play
 - The layout of items should be a little difficult to replicate (not all in a nice neat row) but also not so random that it's too complicated to describe verbally (no photos, drawings, or writing is allowed for students during this activity). *Some good (green) and bad (red) examples are at the end of this document.*
- Room Setup
 - Below is an example of how you might set up your room to play this activity. It is not necessary to recreate this setup exactly. Here are some key points:
 - You will need to create 3 Zones, separated by some boundary (masking tape, chairs, rope, etc.)
 - These boundaries need to be long enough that members from each team can stand at the boundaries and talk to their teammates in the other zone

- Zone 3 will need one “building station” per group, indicated by the purple Xs on the map below. Make sure these stations are hidden/obscured from players in Zone 2. One option is to have students build on the floor behind desks
 - Building stations do not necessarily need to be hidden from other teams
- The example set should be placed somewhere in Zone 1, again hidden/obscured from players in Zone 2. If the hallway is not an option, you could place the example set under a desk, or use a cardboard box or plastic tub to cover the example.
 - If using some sort of covering, make sure that lifting the cover up and down won't disturb the items' positions
 - E.g. pieces of paper will not fly away



A photograph showing various school supplies scattered on a grey carpeted floor. The items include a long white ruler, a black Sharpie marker, a yellow pencil with a pink eraser, blue-handled scissors, two silver paper clips, and several pieces of lined paper and yellow sticky notes. A red border surrounds the entire image.

A collection of various objects arranged on a grey textured surface. The objects include a blue pair of scissors, a yellow rubber band, a silver paper clip, a black binder clip, a white rectangular card, a yellow sticky note, a white ruler, a black Sharpie marker, a yellow pencil, and a black pen.

A collection of various office supplies and stationery items arranged on a grey, textured surface. The items include a square yellow sticky note at the top center, a black Sharpie marker with a white cap on the left, a yellow pencil with a pink eraser on the right, a white string forming a large 'V' shape in the center, a small tan rubber band below the string, a blue-handled pair of scissors on the bottom left, a white lined notepad with a silver paperclip on the bottom center, a black paperclip on the bottom right, and a black pen at the very bottom.

Be creative with your setup! You also know your students and the level of challenge that is suitable for them!

Program Connection Information

Please use an external microphone (conference style) rather than the integrated one in the computer for the audio for your class and locate it centrally in the room. It can be difficult for the Greenbush teacher to hear the students using the computer microphone and therefore it reduces the interactive nature of the lesson. It is fine to use the computer webcam for your video source though.

All classes will take place using Zoom desktop video. You may need to download Zoom launcher software ([free download](#)) if you don't already have it. This needs to be done in advance of the lesson.

It's always a good idea to touch base with your district technology facilitator prior to your program to make sure all systems/equipment are in place and operational and no firewalls that might prevent you from connecting to Zoom.

Once you have received confirmation of your scheduled lesson, a Zoom link invitation will be sent to you via email. This invitation will be specific to your scheduled time and date; therefore it will not work for any other lessons hosted by the Greenbush Student Enrichment Department. If you have students connecting remotely, please remember to forward this invitation to them.

Once you connect, you will enter a Zoom waiting room. Your Greenbush teacher will admit you into the final meeting room.

If you have questions, please email Amie Beggs at amie.beggs@greenbush.org or Emily Joy Roth at emily.roth@greenbush.org.