

Pipe Cleaner Improv

(When the team enters the room, tell them this is a verbal hands on problem)

- 1) You will have 2 minutes to think and 5 minutes to respond.
- 2) Each of you has 7 cards. After each response, you will place a card in the box. You will respond in sequence. You may give responses until you no longer have any cards or until time ends, whichever occurs first.
- 3) Questions count against your thinking time. You may not skip your turn, nor repeat, nor pass. If one member of the team is stuck, the team is stuck.
- 4) Common answers will receive 1 point. Creative answers will receive 3 points. Highly creative or humorous answers will receive 5 points.
- 5) Each of you have 5 pipe cleaners in front of you. Your problem is to improvise with the pipe cleaners and say what it could be. For example you could pretend to pick up food with the pipe cleaners and say, “ They are chopsticks.”

For Judges Only

- 1) Provide 35 cards. If you have colored cards or cards that are marked differently, it will help make sure that each team member has the same number of cards.
- 2) Place 5 pipe cleaners on the table in reach of all team members.
- 3) Looking for unusual responses and always reward humor.
- 4) Teams often say obvious things when doing a verbal hands-on problem. It is important to work with your teams on manipulating the items and really going for creative responses. A few years ago at World Finals, a student received a Ranatra Fusca (Ranatras are almost unheard of in spontaneous at World Finals), for turning his responses in the verbal hands on into commercials and moving around the room. Work with your teams on coming up with creative and different ways of giving the responses. Also remember that if the judges laugh, they will probably mark the response as creative.