

Verbal Spontaneous Problem Happy (New) Holidays!

Procedure:

1. Give each team member 6 cards or other tokens.
2. Team members may respond in any order.
3. Each time a response is given the team member must place one card/token in the basket in the center of the table.

Time: One minute to think and 4 minutes to respond

Scoring: One point for each common response. Five points for each creative or humorous response.

Problem: Imagine that you are in charge of creating a new holiday. Your problem is to name a new holiday and then say how people will celebrate it.

Common Responses:

National Cookie Day – celebrate by eating cookies

Onion Day – celebrate by having onion soup for dinner

Creative Responses:

National Cookie Day – celebrate by talking in Cookie Monster voice all day

Onion Day – celebrate by crying all day

Coaching Points:

Creative responses are five times more valuable than common ones in this problem. Each team member gets only 6 responses. Did the team recognize the importance of making every response a creative one?

Were all the cards used? With 4 minutes there is plenty of time for 30 or more responses.

The examples given use the same holidays but give different celebrations. The common responses include predictable celebrations. The creative responses have silly celebrations (Cookie Monster voice) or unexpected/ridiculous “celebrations” (crying all day.)

Could team members distinguish between common and creative answers? Ask the team what they thought were the best answers. Did their choices match those of the coach/judge?

Variation:

Instead of making new holidays, use existing holidays and come up with new ways to celebrate.