

THE TEAMWORK GAME



- 1) Hold up an everyday object such as a glass jar with a lid, a string, a paperclip, a nail, or a cup.
- 2) Ask each person to work alone for a few minutes and write down a list of all the ways this object might be used. The uses can be as unique, bizarre or practical as they want.
- 3) Now, ask people to work in pairs for a few minutes. They need to compare their lists and write out a NEW list of all the different uses they came up with by working together. The new list should combine all the different uses on each of their lists and they can also add new uses they think of while working together, just do not write down the same use twice.
- 4) Now, ask people to work in larger groups, like tables of 6-10 people each, for a few minutes. Ask them to work together to write out another NEW list of all the different uses they came up with by working together in a large group. The new list should combine all the different uses each pair came up with and they can also add new uses they think of while working together in a large group, just do not write down the same use twice.
- 5) Ask how many people thought of more new ideas after seeing what uses other people had listed.
- 6) Ask how many uses each group came up with and give a small prize those in the group with the longest list of uses.
- 7) Talk about how much easier it was to come up with new ideas when two or more people worked together. Tie this in with how the knowledge and experience of each person can help others learn more about a topic.
- 8) Ask the group to talk about how this similar to what happens when advocates work together to educate legislators on an issue.

SAMPLE: List of Uses for Canning Jars

1. Flower vase
2. Drinking glass
3. Fish bowl
4. Terrarium
5. Storing leftovers
6. Candle holder
7. Bug catcher or even temporary bug home
8. Measure drinking water for day
9. Sprouting seeds or grains
10. Packing a salad for lunch
11. Keeping herbs fresh in the fridge (green onions, cilantro, etc.).
12. Mixing and storing spice mixes.
13. Storing dry pantry staples.
14. Mixing salad dressings.
15. Mixing flour and water to add to pan drippings for gravy
16. Fermenting foods like salsa or pickles or sauerkraut
17. Mixing and storing dry baking mixes for bread, pancakes, etc.
18. Culture your own creme fraiche (or sour cream)
19. Packaging for food you give as gifts - like dry bean soup or cookies in a jar
20. Gift set presentation (sewing set, manicure set, etc.)
21. Homemade lantern
22. Coin bank
23. Sort hardware in the garage
24. Store art/craft supplies
25. Keep yarn from getting tangled while knitting
26. Organize kitchen tools
27. Store Epsom salts, cotton balls and other beauty supplies in the bathroom
28. Store small children's toys (marbles, Legos, tiny people)
29. Store hair barrettes, clips, pins or ribbons



30. Beach in a jar
31. Snow globe
32. Pen/pencil holder
33. Bird feeder
34. Centerpiece or party favor display
35. Serve breadsticks
36. Soap dispenser
37. Organize laundry supplies like stain sticks, clothes pins, powdered soaps
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