

LWL Team Tower Challenge: Planning, Building, Reflecting

Objective:

To engage in a hands-on team-building activity that highlights the importance of planning, adaptability, and collaboration in a group setting.

Materials (per group):

- One ziplock bag containing: Dixie cups, string, straws, popsicle sticks, scotch tape, paper clips, etc.
- It is important that each ziplock bag contains the exact same materials in the same quantity.

Instructions:

1. Planning Phase (10 minutes) – No Touching the Bag!

- Each group will receive a sealed bag of materials.
- Your task is to spend **10 minutes** discussing and planning how to build the tallest freestanding tower using only the materials provided.
- You **may not** open the bag or touch the materials during this phase—only discussion and strategizing are allowed.
- This may feel like too much time, but use it wisely to think through your design, roles, and potential challenges.

2. Building Phase (8 minutes) – Execute Your Plan!

- Once the time is up, you may open the bag and begin constructing your tower based on your plan.
- Your goal: **Build the tallest freestanding tower possible.**
- You will likely face unforeseen challenges—how you adapt as a team is part of the activity!
- The group with the tallest tower at the end of 8 minutes wins.

3. Winning Team Reward:

- The winning group will **choose a snack** for a future class.

4. Reflection & Journaling (10 minutes):

- After the activity, each student will write a short reflection in their journal. Consider these prompts:

- What role did you play in your group?
- Did you take on a leadership role? If so, how?
- What was your group's planning process like?
- How did you and your team respond when challenges arose?
- What does this experience reveal about your working style and interactions with others?

5. **Discussion & Future Application:**

- This activity is designed to encourage **self-awareness and teamwork skills**.
- We will revisit these reflections in future small group discussions and activities throughout the semester.

Key Takeaways:

- The balance between **planning and execution**
- The importance of **flexibility and problem-solving**
- How different **roles emerge in teamwork**
- Personal insights into **your own group dynamics**