



Build a Bridge -- Elementary Option

Students work as a team to construct a bridge from a very atypical set of resources. Students learn valuable, life lessons about teamwork through planning, building, and testing their bridge! Participants learn that in life we have limited time, limited resources, and must work with other people who are different from us!

You will need:

The following items are needed for each group of 4 students.

- 4 Round Balloons
- 1 Sunday Edition-sized Stack of Newspaper
- 2 Meters of Masking Tape
- Large Book

Bridge Building Tips

1. Divide students into teams of 4-5 students.
2. A key to success is to assign a Project Helper to team of 4-5 students. This Project Helper will encourage all students to participate and solicit ideas from all team members. They will also help facilitate the assigning of roles and tasks during the planning phase. Establishing well-defined student roles during the building phase will create a positive experience for everyone.
3. There are many different ways to succeed at this project. Encourage out-of-the box thinking. The balloons may or may not be used. All of the newspaper may or may not be used.
4. Time-saving preparation: Consider having two meters of tape pre-measured at each workstation.
5. This is a very open ended and discovery-based exercise. Generally speaking, this project causes students who typically produce strong grades in a formal school setting to become frustrated. However, this project brings out the best in students who typically get "B" or "C" grades.
6. Timing: don't be afraid to give extra time during the building phase. Although the video suggests 10 minutes to build, consider allowing a 15-20 minute building session to provide ample time for success. The younger the students, the longer the building phase may take.
7. The goal of this activity is interaction. Teambuilding is an essential aspect to kingdom of God, and serving together as a team is a key spiritual component to the bridge building activity. Groups who find success are often those who listened to everyone's ideas, submitted to one another out of reverence for Christ, and humbly worked well together.
8. Have a leader carefully test the integrity of the bridge by placing a book on top of the bridge and passing the book beneath the bridge. Be gracious and seek student success as you test the

structures.