

Teaching Communications and Teamwork in Math... with LEGO!

May 4, 2022

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Activities Used

1. Communication Strategies
2. Presentations
3. Reflective Writing
4. Workshops on Business Skills

And many others!



1. Communication Strategies



“ What on earth
does LEGO® have to
do with
communication
strategies? ”



1. Communication Strategies

- Phase 1: Written only
 - Success rate: $3/18$
- Phase 2: Verbal only
 - Success rate: $9/18$
- Phase 3: Through an intermediary
 - Success rate: $15/18$ (and the rest very close!)



1. Communication Strategies

- Discussion of strategies after each round

- Reflective paper on experience



2. Presentations

- Articles
 - Identify 3 well-written current articles
 - Verbal presentation
 - Surprise variable length
 - Structured peer Q&A
- Persuasive presentations
 - Convince the class of something
 - Verbal plus slides
 - Huge variety of topics chosen!



3. Reflective Writing

- Presentation Analysis
 - Videotaped their presentations
 - Reflect on their own delivery skills
- Portfolio Review
 - All writing/presentation assignments
 - Discuss how they developed as communicators



4. Business Skills Workshops

- Decision-making
 - Make a decision, then revise given new data
- Teamwork
 - Escape room in a box
- Project management
 - PERT chart and start date estimation
- Negotiation
 - Buy/sell a house
 - Negotiate a deal b/w actuaries & marketing



Student Outcomes

- Presentation skills improved dramatically
- Increased confidence
- Teamwork
- Continuous self improvement
- Excited to start careers



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