



Maryland/DC Odyssey of the Mind

Verbal Spontaneous Problem: National Treasure

A. *When the team members enter the room, tell them, “This is a verbal problem. All team members may compete. Those who choose not to participate must sit quietly in these seats (indicate seats) and watch or leave the room. They cannot participate in any way.”*

B. JUDGE READS TO TEAMS: *(Do not read material in parentheses.)*

- (1) You will have 1 minute to think and 4 minutes to respond. You are not allowed to talk to each other. You may ask the judges questions; however, time will continue. Each of you has paper and pencil. During think time you are allowed to write down your ideas. You are not allowed to share your ideas.
- (2) Speak loudly and clearly. Once time begins, it will not be stopped. You may not repeat a response that has already been given.
- (3) **There are 35 tokens on the table. With each response, you will place one of the tokens in the container.**
- (4) **You will be finished when response time ends or when you have used all of your tokens.**
- (5) You will receive 1 point for each common response and 5 points for each creative response.
- (6) **A brand new monument is being built in the nation's capital. Your problem is to say what the new monument is and why it is being built.** For example you might say “they are making a new monument of Franklin Delano Roosevelt to celebrate his presidency.”

(After reading the entire problem aloud, repeat the items in boldface. Begin by saying, “I repeat.”)

C. FOR JUDGES ONLY:

1. Judges should discuss and practice solving the problem before the first team competes. You may make decisions that are uniform to each team. Before any final decisions are made, check with the IPC or APC.

2. Place two copies of the Team's Copy of the problem in full view of all team members before reading the problem to them. They may use them as a reference.

3. Randomly place 35 tokens on the table. Tokens can be small wooden blocks, poker chips, small rocks, large paper clips, etc. Anything that is easily picked up and placed in the container after each turn, but not something that distracts team members.

4. Place a container or two within reach of all team members. Make sure it is large enough to hold all 35 tokens. Make sure team members place a token in the container with each response.

5. Also give each team member a piece of paper and a pencil to use during think time. If you see a team member not writing any ideas down, remind them that it could be helpful during response time. Team members are NOT allowed to talk in Part I and may NOT work on lists together.

6. No matter how many team members participate, there are still 35 tokens on the table.

7. Be sure to give exactly 1 minute to think and 4 minutes to respond. Students responding as time ends can finish and be scored.

8. Examples of Common Responses:

- General statements that do not have much improvisation.
- Statements that do not relate to the problem.
- Statements that relate to the problem but are not original/humorous.
- Statements that don't make sense.
- Statements similar to previous ones.

9. Examples of Creative Responses:

- Statements/improvisations that are original or humorous.
- Statements that incorporate the problem in an original way.
- Statements that use puns in creative ways

Note: Once a response is given, if the same or a very similar response is given, count it as common, but do not stop the team. Time continues. Do not ask teams to explain their answer, or to give a different response. You should only ask a team member to repeat a response if you didn't hear them.

Team Copy

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