

VERBAL SPONTANEOUS PROBLEM: BUYING POWER

JUDGE READS TO STUDENTS: (Do not read numbers or phrases in parenthesis.)

1. This is a verbal problem.
2. You will have two minutes to think and three minutes to respond. Questions count against your thinking time.
3. You will receive one point for each common response. Creative or humorous responses will receive three points. This will be a subjective opinion of the judge and the judge's decision is final.
4. Each team member has been given six colored cards. During your thinking time, you may exchange the colored cards as you wish. However, no person may end up with fewer than four cards in his or her hand when time begins. You may talk however you wish during your thinking time.
5. Your team will give responses in the following order: Yellow, red, blue, green, white. There is a color-coded sheet in the center of the table with the colors on it showing the order in which you must respond. Any team member with a yellow card may answer first, any team member with a red card may answer second, and so forth. You must continue to answer in the same order until all cards are gone.
6. When you give a reply, you must put the appropriate card in the matching colored space on the color-coded sheet. You will finish when there are six yellow cards in the yellow pile, six red cards in the red pile, and so forth, and no team member has a response card.
7. You may not skip your turn, nor repeat nor pass. If one member of the team is stuck, the team is stuck.
8. Once the time begins, it will not be stopped. If the judge asks you to repeat or to clarify your answer, it counts against your time. Speak loudly and clearly. Your time ends when the buzzer sounds.

9. THE PROBLEM IS:

When people spend money, they choose the items that are important to them. Everyone's choices and wishes are a little bit different. You are to tell something that you would exchange for something you want, and what the item is that you want to get. For example, you could say "I would spend \$2 for an ice cream cone."

(Repeat #9, THE PROBLEM IS:)

You have two minutes to think and to exchange colored cards.

FOR JUDGES ONLY:

Be sure to give exactly two minutes to think and three minutes to respond. Timing is critical. Students responding at the buzzer can finish and be scored.

You may answer questions during the two-minute thinking period, but time continues.

At the end of thinking time, ask each team member to hold up his or her cards to verify that each team member has at least 4 cards. (Some may have more, but no one may have less.)

Be certain that each team member has 6 colored cards of the same color in front of him when time begins.

Be certain that there is a sheet of paper taped to the table with five colored squares or rectangles on it, in the following order from left to right: yellow, red, blue, green, white. Be sure a number is written below each one, from 1-5, and indicate when reading the problem the order in which the team members are to respond and put down cards.

Score: One point for each common response, three points for creative answers.

Common Responses: Any money amount for any object that is an ordinary purchase (including commonly-thought-of bribes) and any answers that involve commonly discussed or accepted exchanges. Examples might be “I would give \$5 for an iTunes gift card,” or “I would give a million dollars for World Peace,” or “I would give my teacher \$100 to give me an “A” in algebra,” or “I would give anything to cure cancer.”

Creative responses: Unusual or humorous connections, plays on words, etc., such as “I would give no cents for nonsense,” or “I would give the shirt off my back to friend in need,” or I would give Odyssey judges my best ideas for a creative answer,” or “I would give George Washington one thousand dollars to buy his axe before he chopped down the cherry tree, so I didn’t have to hear about that cherry tree any more,” or “I would give a million dollars for exercise equipment in the US Senate gym that allowed them to exercise their intelligence.”