

VERBAL SPONTANEOUS PROBLEM: **MY MOTTO**

A. *When the team enters the room, tell them "This is a verbal problem. You have 1 minute to select the team members who will compete. The other team members must sit in these chairs and watch (indicate seats) or may leave the room. They may not participate in any way. (Allow the team 1 minute to decide.)*

B. JUDGE READS TO TEAM:

- (1) You will have one minute to think and three minutes to respond. You may ask the judges questions; however time will continue. You may not talk to each other at any time.
- (2) You will receive 1 point for each common response, and 3 points for each creative response.
- (3) Each of you has a set of response cards.
- (4) You will give responses in turn. When you give a response, you will put one response card in the center of the table. The person in seat #1 will begin, and you will answer in a clockwise direction. *(Judge indicates first person and indicated the direction of responses.)*
- (5) Speak loudly and clearly. Once time begins, it will not be stopped, even if the judge asks you to repeat your answer or to clarify your answer, or to give a more appropriate response.
- (6) Time will end when response time ends, or when no team members have any response cards.
- (7) YOUR PROBLEM IS: Many companies have mottos or slogans. You are to name a person or character and tell what that person's motto might be. For example, you could say, "Humpty Dumpty's motto: don't climb on walls."

(Judge repeats #8, beginning by saying, "I repeat..."; then begin one minute thinking time. At the end of one minute, reset the timer and begin three minute response time.)

FOR JUDGES ONLY:

- (1) You will need 40 response cards. These can be playing cards, or can be numbered index cards.
- (2) Before each team enters the room, put 8 response cards at each seat

Examples of responses:

Common responses: Any obvious saying that directly relates to the known facts or characteristics of a person: for example, "my teacher's motto: do your homework," "Jack Spratt's motto: eat no fat," or "George Washington's motto: don't chop down cherry trees."

Creative responses: These answers will include less commonly associated characteristics, attributes one step removed from the obvious, or humorous answers, for example, "my teacher's motto: never let the dog near your homework," "Jack Spratt's motto: never marry a woman on a diet," "Humpty Dumpty's motto: don't buy insurance from the King's Men Group," or "George Washington's motto: Father (of our country) Knows Best."