

## Instant Challenge Practice: Cutting Corners

### ATD Tip for Team Managers

Contributed by Lori Good, ATD Missouri

Hey, TM's! Sweating over finding tons of materials for *Instant Challenges*? Stressed because you can't build an apparatus that holds a balancing hula-hoop? Frazzled because you can't find a dog dish, wooden blocks, bicycle tire, or three empty boxes of cereal? RELAX! *Instant Challenges* can be a stress-free, wonderful way to teach the creative problem solving process to students.

You don't have to spend hours gather the "right" materials. Remember the philosophy of DI...creativity rules! Instead of gathering materials, try looking around your home or classroom and gather materials that you think would make an interesting *Instant Challenges* then...write your own *Instant Challenges* based on the materials you have on hand. I have found I spend a lot less time preparing *Instant Challenges* for the teams to practice by writing an *Instant Challenges* based on materials on hand.

I have included an *Instant Challenge* I wrote based on the materials I found in my classroom. It isn't a great piece of literature, however I saw incredible solutions from the team members. The creativity in *Instant Instant Challenges* isn't the challenge; it is in the solution you see from team members.

Remember... *Instant Challenges* are like mini *Team Challenges*. Team members can learn a lot about the creative problem solving process from *Instant Challenges Practice*.

Happy DI ing,

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**Objective:** To build a bridge that rests totally on three note cards and that extends as high as possible.

**Materials:** 20 Straws  
1 Sheet of Mailing Labels  
5 Paper Clips  
3 Craft Sticks  
Clay

**Procedure:** You will have 8 minutes to build a bridge that spans from the note card labeled “Start” to the note card labeled “Finish.” You may use *one* of the three-labeled “Support” note cards to help your bridge span the table by building a ground support for your bridge.

At the end of the 8-minute time period your bridge will be measured for height points. Your height points will be measured from the lowest point that your bridge hangs, outside of the note cards.

## Scoring will be as follows:

- 50 points if the bridge spans the table and only touches three note cards.
- 10 points for each cm of height the team has from the lowest point of the bridge.
- Up to 25 points for teamwork

