



Connections Activity



Title/Skill:	The Tallest Tower
Connection Goal:	Personalization: Problem Solving
Grade Level:	9-12
Time Needed:	25 minutes

**This activity is from Teampedia. Click [here](#) for a very detailed description (with pictures) of this activity.

Handouts/Materials Provided:

- Paper Cups, plates, bowls
- Popsicle Sticks or coffee stirrers
- Cheap pens or pencils
- Construction Paper or cardboard
- and you must have some tape (masking tape works best)

Summary of Activity for the Advisor:

1. Arrange materials unevenly into packets.
2. Divide teams and hand out one packet per team. Introduce objective → Build the largest free standing tower. Be intentionally vague about teamwork/collaboration vs. competition. Allow time to plan.
3. Announce that they have ~15-20 min to build, and let the building begin.
4. Monitor progress.

Read/Review/Discuss/Do with students:

Add the following questions if the groups did not collaborate or share supplies:

- Did you assume that you were only supposed to collaborate with those in your small group?
- What would have been possible if you had decided to share resources with the whole group?
- Would you have had a taller tower?
- Why didn't you?

Add the following questions if the groups collaborate:

- How did you come to the decision to collaborate?
- What became possible once you made the decision to share resources?
- What was challenging?

