



Connections Idea of the Week  
For Week ending 9/4/09



<b>Title/Skill:</b>	Mastermind/ Problem Solving
<b>Connection Goal:</b>	Academic Achievement
<b>Grade Level:</b>	9-12
<b>Month:</b>	September
<b>Time Needed:</b>	25 min.

**Handouts/Materials Provided:** All activities can be written on a chalkboard or whiteboard.  
(Activities included below)

**Summary of Activity for the Advisor:**

1. Write the problem on the board. Give students enough time to attempt each problem before revealing the answer.
2. Discourage students from quitting and/or sharing answers.
3. It is possible to have more than one problem on the board at one time.

**Read/Review/Discuss/Do with students:**

- Discuss with the students which strategies they used and which were most effective.
- Ask students if the activities became easier, harder, or stayed the same. Did they get easier as you began to ‘think outside the box’?

- Drawing only two straight lines, make a box out of the number below.

301

Answer

301

We never promised that you would like the answers, but I think you do have to appreciate the creativity. If you know of some more of these problems, please send them to us. We don't like to solve them anymore than you, but we do love to collect them.

PLEASE  
NO PUZZLES WITHOUT SOLUTIONS!  
WE'VE GOT ENOUGH TO DO ALREADY.

- Excluding this question, how many F's are in this sentence?

FEATURE FILMS ARE THE RESULT  
OF YEARS OF SCIENTIFIC STUDY  
COMBINED WITH THE EXPERIENCE  
OF YEARS.

The answer is six

For other activity ideas for *Mastermind*, refer to (or read on):

<i>Connect the Dots</i>	page 243
<i>My Favorite Tangram</i>	250
<i>Tricks It Is</i>	254
<i>Tricky Triangles</i>	256

- Draw only one line below, adding it to the Roman Numeral IX (9), and make the number six.

IX

Answer

SIX