

**BE THE
GUIDE ON
THE SIDE**

**OR
HOW TO AVOID
OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE**



Passport Guide to Great Coaching



Odyssey of the Mind®
Passport

An interactive planner and guide for
new and seasoned Odyssey of the Mind
coaches and teams

The Philosophy

Solving a problem in Odyssey of the Mind means team members take a long creative journey to their solution. There will be mistakes, dead ends, frustrations, do overs, rewrites, and hot glue everywhere...

...if someone else takes that journey for them, then the team learns little, and the solution is not proudly theirs.

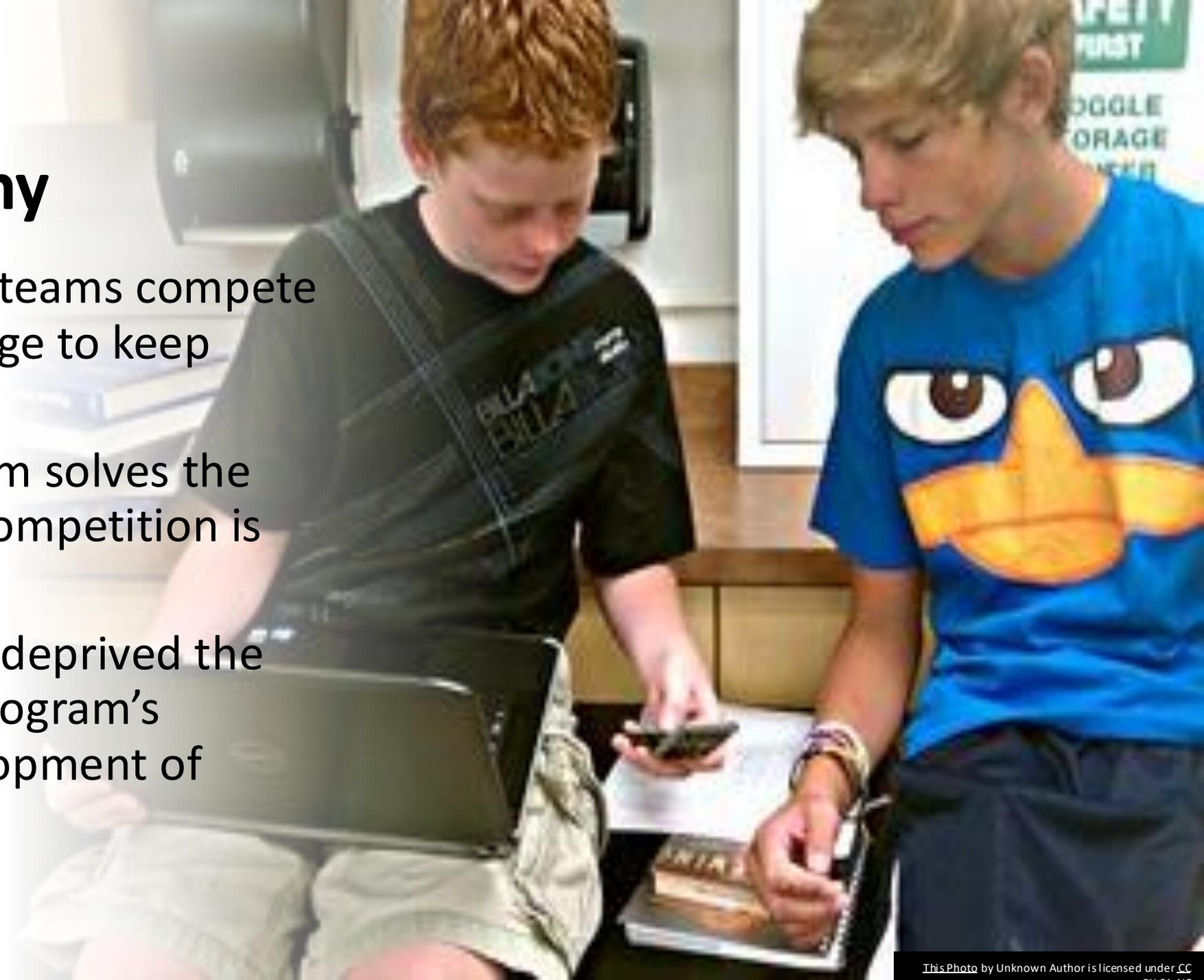


The Philosophy

In Odyssey of the Mind, teams compete with other teams their age to keep things fair...

...if an adult or older team solves the problem for them, the competition is unfair.

Outside Assistance (OA) deprived the team members of the program's benefits and their development of critical thinking skills.



What is the role of the team Coach?

Coaches need to:

- Organize the team
- Maintain order and discipline
- Motivate the team members



What is the role of the team Coach?

Coaches may:

- Encourage team members to write for clarification if they have questions about their long problem solution.
- Help team members acquire cooperative learning skills
- Create an atmosphere of positive teamwork and stimulate creative thinking
- Teach the team members the benefit of trial and error. Use the “What did we learn from this?” approach to creative failure.



What is the role of the team Coach?

Coaches may:

- Give team members “homework” assignments to get them to think more creatively about an initial idea
- Stimulate team thinking by asking questions to generate ideas
- Help team members move materials any time except during team’s performance time
- Help team members interpret the rules outlined in the Program Guide



What is the role of the team Coach?

Coaches may:

- Serve as a “recording secretary” so long as they write only what team members say
- Ask broad questions to prod team to think about their solutions or how to improve them
- Teach team members how to do something but may not give them a specific solution.



What is Outside Assistance?

Coaches act as facilitators, the proverbial “guide on the side” and not as the “sage on the stage” telling teams how to solve their long-term problem.

How do coaches, parents, and other team supporters keep from crossing the line from guiding to telling?

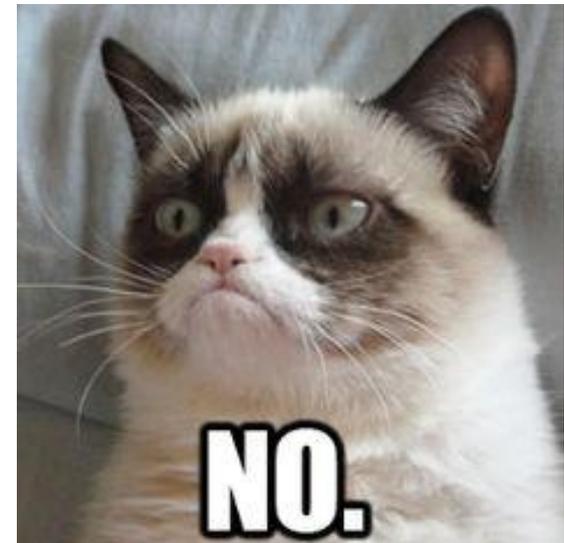
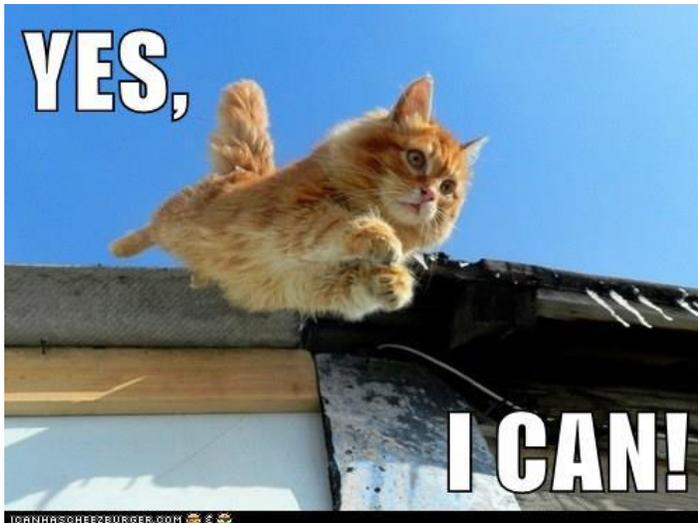
And where is that Outside Assistance line exactly?



Outside Assistance or Not? A Quick Yes or No Quiz

A coach brings in an architect to talk to a Problem 4 structure team about design, shapes and strength of materials.

Is this Outside Assistance or not?



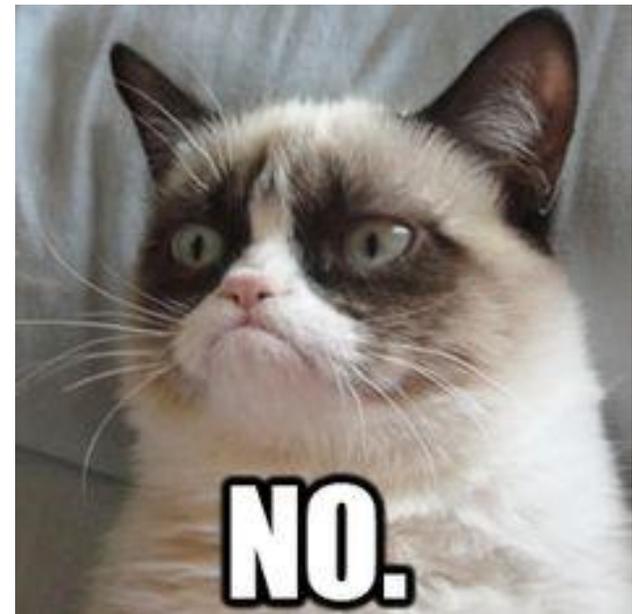
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Is this Outside Assistance (OA) or not?

No OA in this scenario, a coach can and should do this!

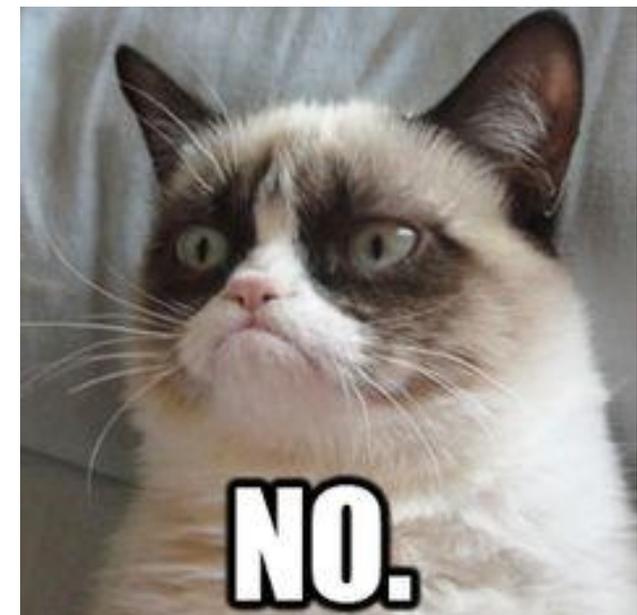
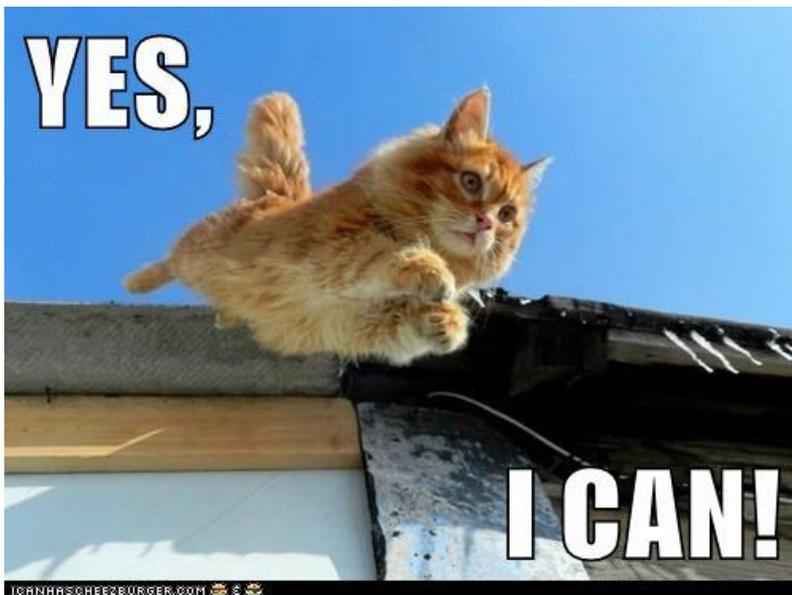
This is exactly what a good coach does by teaching the team members skills/techniques on “how” to do something so the team can create their own solution. Knowledge is power.



Outside Assistance or Not? A Quick Yes or No Quiz

A coach edits a team's script for grammar errors, story continuity, and characters' lines.

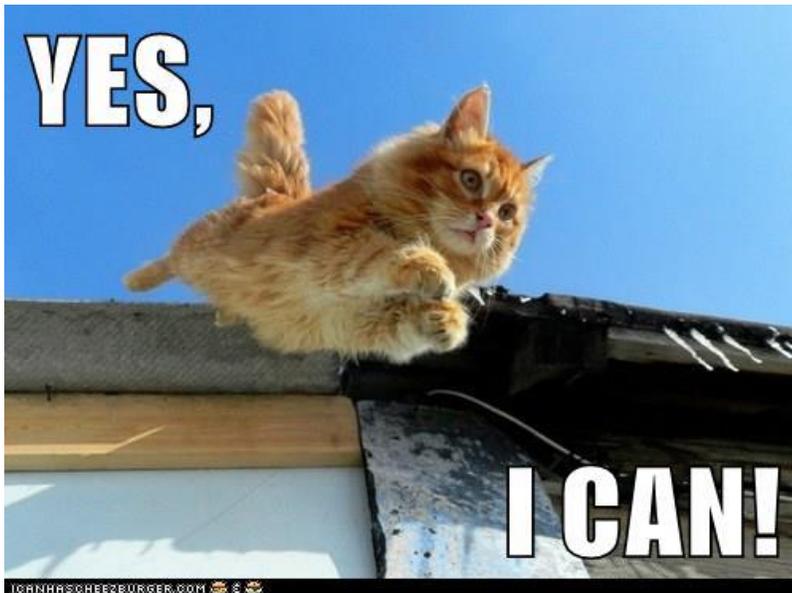
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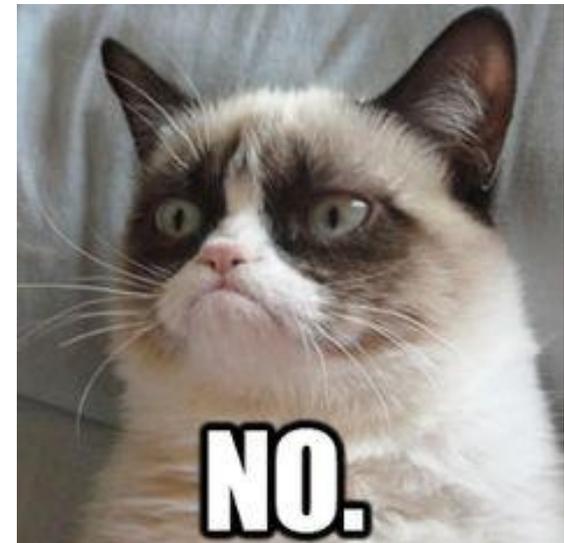
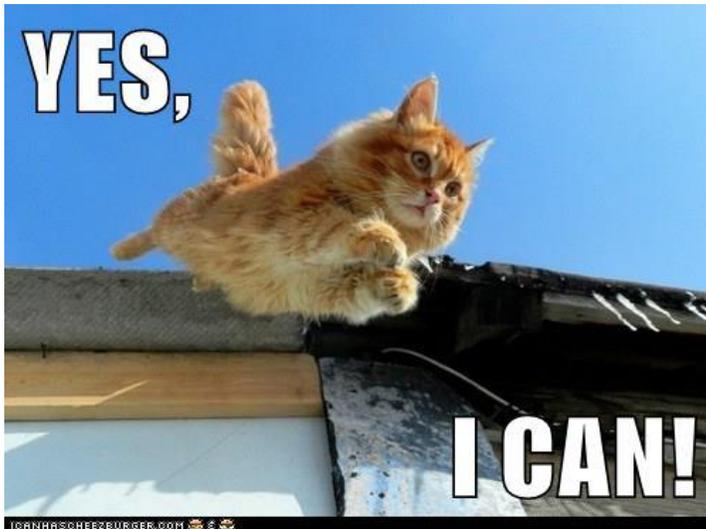
Yes, this Is Outside Assistance.

A coach may be the “scribe” for the team but may not change their work.

Outside Assistance or Not? A Quick Yes or No Quiz

A team member brings in a dress her sister made for a dance recital and wears it as her costume in the long-term performance.

Is this Outside Assistance or not?



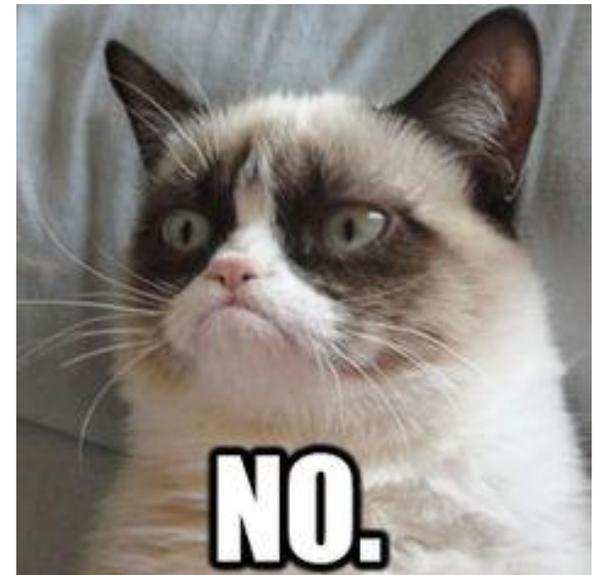
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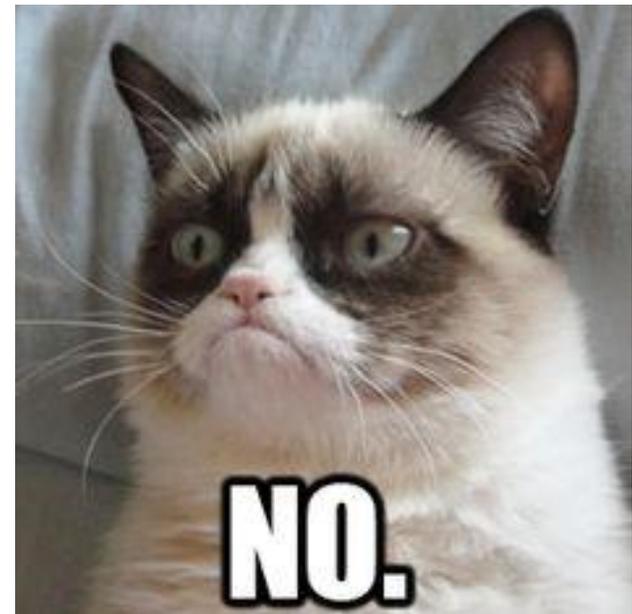
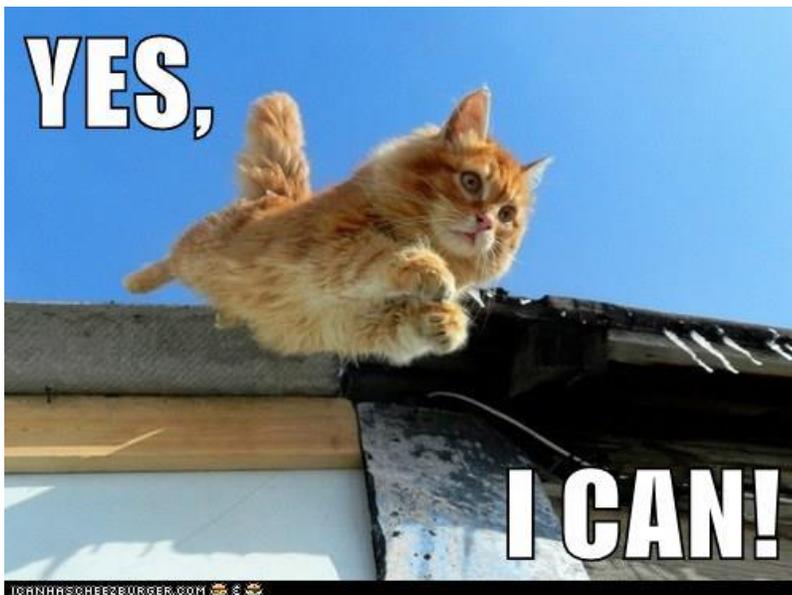
The dance recital dress is no different than using a commercially produced and purchased costume in the performance.



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A team uses props and backdrops from last year's solution for the current problem.

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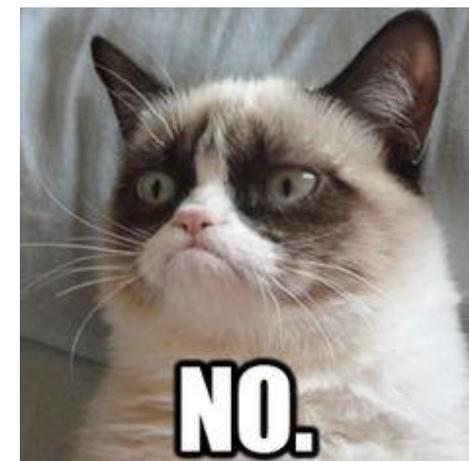
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Trick Question!

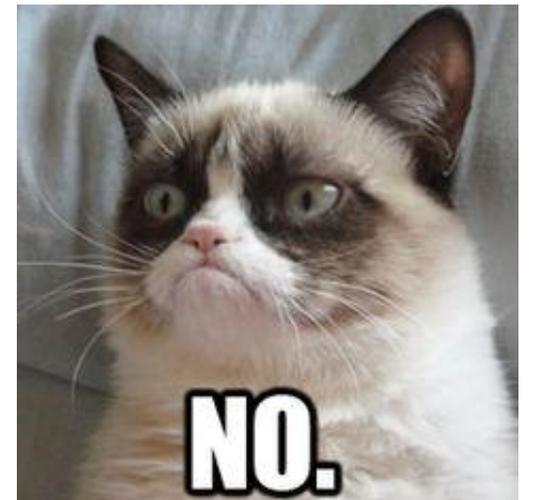
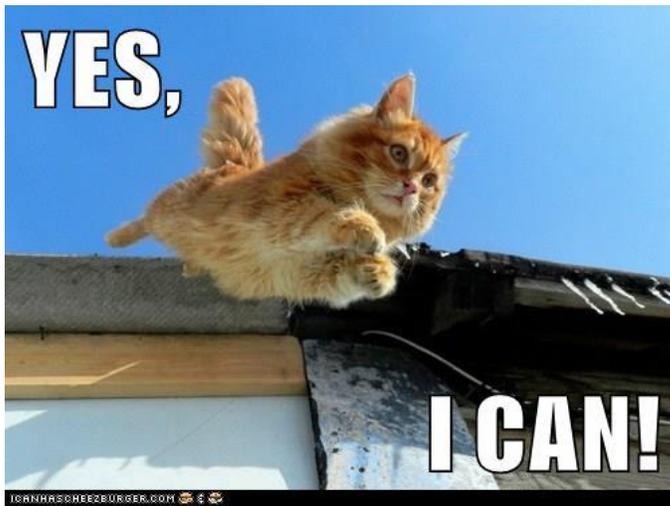
New this year – it is no longer considered Outside Assistance for a team to use something not created by them i.e. school's "OotM closet" where it keeps materials from past years. If this year's team members are ALL the same from last year, then it is still their work being scored and is OK and will be scored as team-created. Otherwise, they will be judged as commercially produced and must be listed on Cost Form like items found in Thrift shops, garage sales, or school theater department, etc.



Outside Assistance or Not? A Quick Yes or No Quiz

A parent, who is a professional seamstress, adds sequins to all the costumes the team members made using her specifications and patterns. The team lists the costumes as a Free Choice in Style.

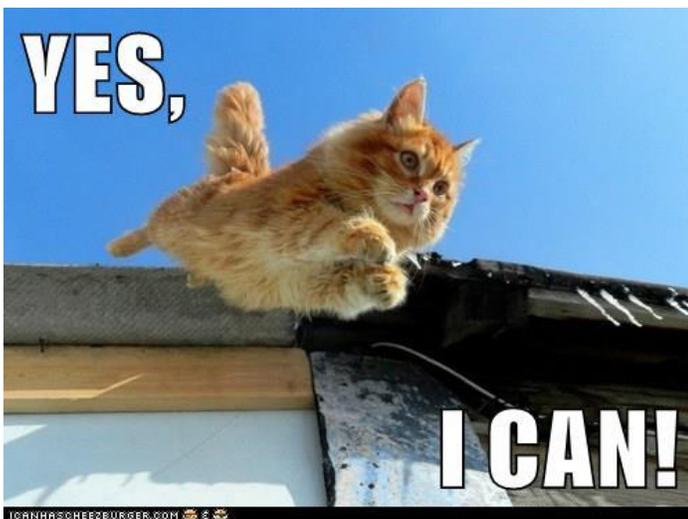
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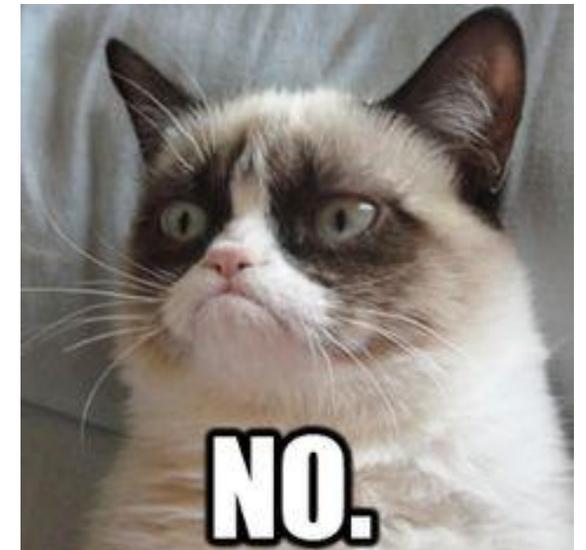
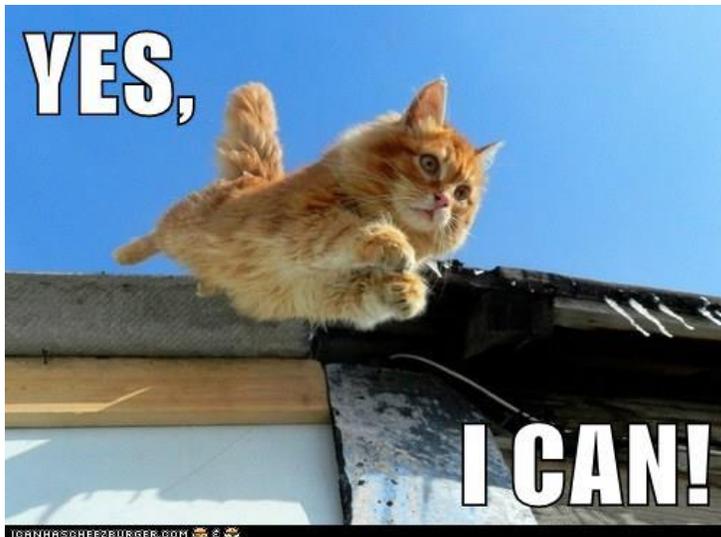
Yes, this is Outside Assistance!

The parent not only designed the costumes but added to their construction.

Outside Assistance or Not? A Quick Yes or No Quiz

A team is preparing for its Spontaneous competition. The coach picks problems for them to practice that he/she thinks represent the type they will get in competition. The coach tells them whether they made a creative response or a common one. The team is given constant, direct feedback on the quality of their spontaneous solutions.

Is this Outside Assistance or not?

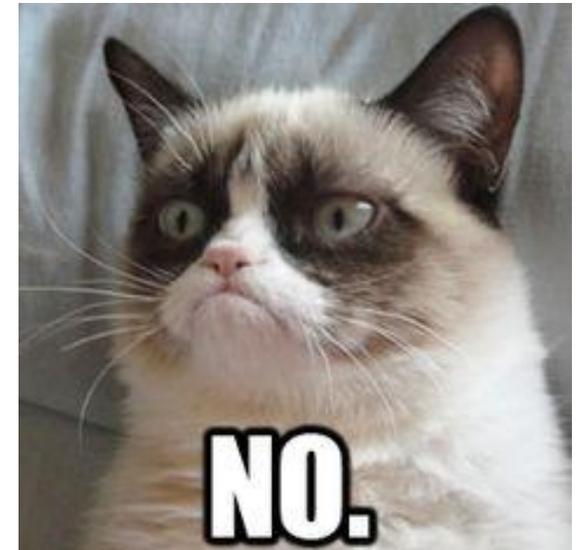


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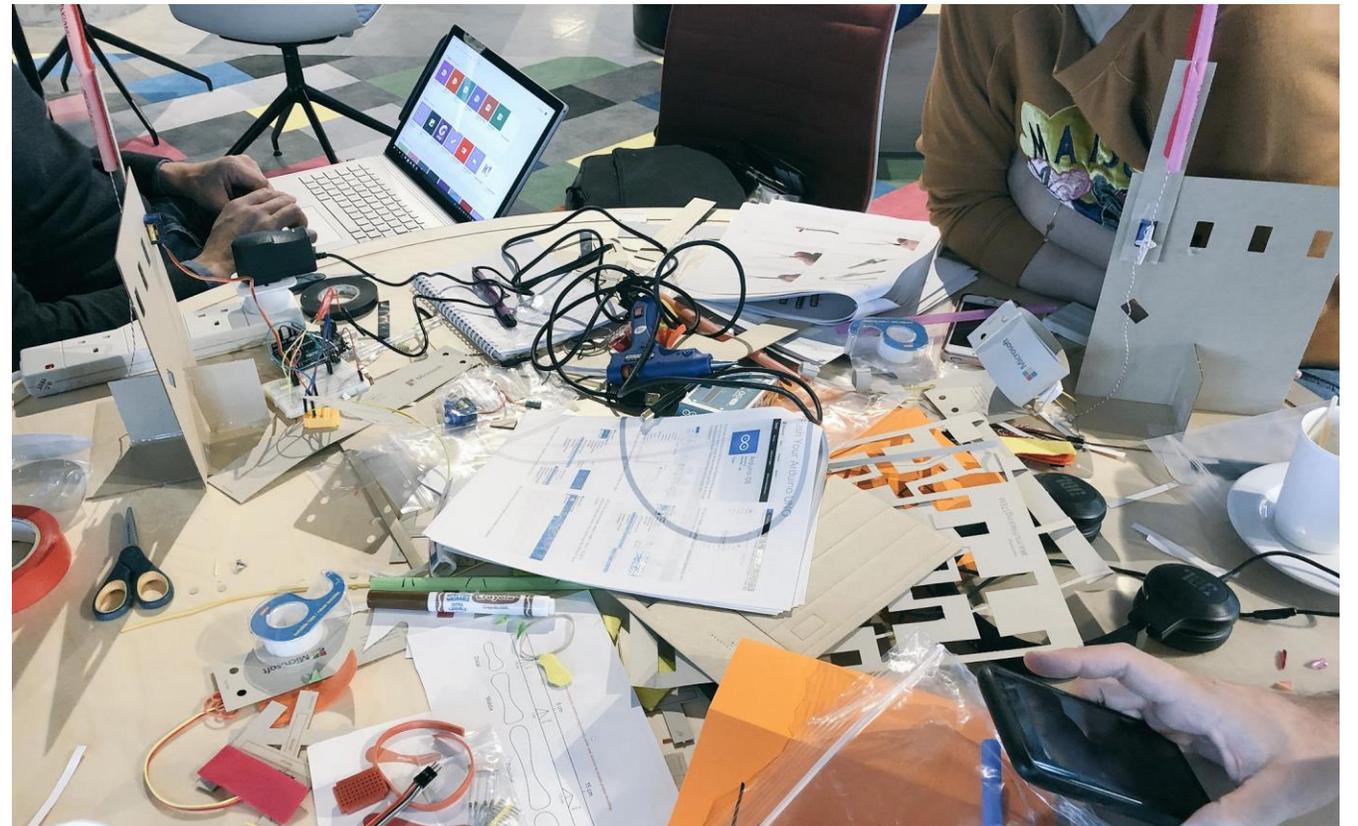
This is not Outside Assistance.
There is **no** OA in Spontaneous.
Give them all the help you can!



**Their ideas, their work, their journey to
their success.
This is the Odyssey of the Mind journey...**



Enjoy the Journey, Coach!



QUESTIONS?

