

## COMBINATION HANDS-ON AND VERBAL SPONTANEOUS PROBLEM: ALIEN LIFE

JUDGE READS TO STUDENTS: (Do not read numbers or phrases in parenthesis.)

1. This is a combination hands-on and verbal problem.
2. You will have 2 minutes to think and 5 minutes to respond. Questions count against your thinking time.
3. You will receive 1 point for each common response. Creative or humorous responses will receive 5 points. This will be a subjective opinion of the judge and the judge's decision is final.
4. Each team member has been given six colored cards. During your thinking time, you may exchange the colored cards as you wish. However, no person may end up with fewer than four cards in his or her hand when time begins. Once response time begins you may not exchange cards. You may talk however you wish during your thinking time.
5. Your team will give responses in the following order: Yellow, red, blue, green, white. There is a color-coded sheet in the center of the table with the colors on it showing the order in which you must respond. Any team member with a yellow card may answer first, any team member with a red card may answer second, and so forth. You must continue to answer in the same order until all cards are gone.
6. When you give a reply, you must put the appropriate card in the matching colored space on the color-coded sheet. You will finish when there are six yellow cards in the yellow pile, six red cards in the red pile, and so forth, and no team member has a response card or time expires.
7. Once the time begins, it will not be stopped. If the judge asks you to repeat or to clarify your answer, it counts against your time. Speak loudly and clearly. Your time ends when the buzzer sounds.

### 8. THE PROBLEM IS:

A robotic space ship has returned from a mission to search for life on Mars with a collection of artifacts that seem to belong to an alien life form. (Point to the items in the center of the table.) You are a scientist whose job is to identify the artifacts and describe how the aliens used them. You may choose any item or combine items. You may touch the items when responding. For example you might hold up the plastic fork and say 'This is a rake used to clean leaves in the fall.'

(Repeat #8, THE PROBLEM IS: )

You have 2 minutes to think and to exchange colored cards if you choose, begin.

FOR JUDGES ONLY:

Be sure to give exactly 2 minutes to think and 5 minutes to respond. Timing is critical. Students responding at the buzzer can finish and be scored. You may answer questions during the two-minute thinking period, but time continues.

At the end of thinking time, ask each team member to hold up his or her cards to verify that each team member has at least 4 cards. (Some may have more, but no one may have less.) Be certain that each team member has 6 colored cards of the same color in front of him when time begins.

The following items should be placed on the table: plastic fork, unsharpened pencil, die, plastic cup, birthday candle, pencil cap eraser, paper clip (or other items of your choice)

Be certain that there is a sheet of paper taped to the table with five colored squares or rectangles on it, in the following order from left to right: yellow, red, blue, green, white. Be sure a number is written below each one, from 1-5, and indicate when reading the problem the order in which the team members are to respond and put down cards.

Score: 1 point for each common response, 5 points for creative answers.

Common Responses: Any combination of name and/or use for an object that is ordinary or typical. For example: This is a fork used to eat food. This is a pointy stick used to feed the aliens.

Creative responses: Unusual names and uses. For example (referring to the plastic fork): This is a web brush used to clean the webs of their pet spiders.